

Do you have any traditional Chinese farming implements? The Museum of Chinese Agriculture wants your donation.  
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True love floats on Internet waves.

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Punk seems to have no future in Beijing.

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# BEIJING TODAY

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## China One Win Away From World Cup

By Shan Jinliang

China is on the threshold of its first-ever appearance in the World Cup finals, after rivals Uzbekistan and Qatar drew on September 28. If China beats Oman in Shenyang on Sunday (October 7), Bora Milutinovic's team will end more than 40 years of failure by assuring qualification for World Cup 2002 in Japan and South Korea.

Qatar lies second to China in the qualifying group, with nine points from six matches and a possible maximum of 15. China is on 13 points after five games, and with three matches to go – two at home in Shenyang – needs only three points to make sure of topping the group. The home game against bottom-placed Oman gives China a price-less opportunity to wrap things up early, as it has already beaten the tiny Gulf state 2:0 away.

(Watch the match live on CCTV-5, 7:30pm, October 7)



Will China trip up again on the threshold of World Cup qualification?  
Xinhua photo

## Chinese Pupils to Bush: Hit Terrorists, Don't Harm the Innocent

Pupils from a Chinese primary school have written to President George W. Bush to support action against terrorists, as long as it does no harm to innocent people.

In their letter dated September 18, the "Young Pioneers" of the Chengbei Primary School in Suining, Sichuan Province, wrote, "We deeply feel regret that the [September 11] event has caused many deaths and injuries of innocent people... As young citizens of the People's Republic of China, we send deep sympathy and regards to all the injured people."

The young students said that while they approved of retaliation against the terrorists, the "enemy who destroys peace," they hoped that "innocent people would not be injured and more children would not lose their parents and become orphans."

(Xinhua)

## Public to Pick Place Names

By Zhao Pu

Beijingers are being given the chance to participate in the naming of the city's new places.

"We hope to encourage local residents in Beijing to get involved in place-naming activities", said Yu Wei, director of the Place Naming Department under the City Planning Bureau of Beijing (CPBB), who added that this was part of a policy of "making government affairs public".

Details are available at the (Chinese-language) homepage of the CPBB (<http://www.bjghw.gov.cn/>). Suggestions may be submitted directly on the web page, or via e-mail or telephone.

The public opinions on the naming of new places will be collected and evaluated by specialists, and the final versions will be publicized on the Net.

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI



Representatives of Beijing's top taxpayers find out how their money is spent at the Gaobeidian Sewage Disposal Factory.

Photo by Qu Liyan

# Taxpayers Learn to Love Levies

By Wang Xu / Shan Jinliang

Representatives from 40 of Beijing's top taxpayers got a lesson in fiscal ethics on September 24, as they toured the Gaobeidian Sewage Disposal Factory in Chaoyang District as part of the Municipal Taxation Bureau's "top taxpayer commendation party".

Xiao Guoyao from the Municipal Sewage Company said, "The factory cost 1.644 billion yuan, most of which came from taxpayers."

The Gaobeidian facility can process 1 million tons of sewage a day, meeting 40% of the city's demand.

The representatives touring the sewage factory were all from private enterprises. Ms.Li, from a computer company, said she felt proud of the

contributions her company made to the capital city's residents. Now that she knew something about how the money was spent, she said she was more willing to pay tax. Similar activities are held in Japan, said Yan Feng, a professor from the Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute.

### Positive step

"This marks a positive step for national taxation from exclusively administrative management to a more socialized [approach]," said Qi Guahua, a professor from the Central Financial University.

The Beijing tax bureau says income tax paid by individuals and private companies is the capital's second-largest source of revenue after

taxes paid by state enterprises. The tax collectors plan to pay still more attention to increasing such revenues.

Ordinary Chinese people have long felt no obligation to pay taxes, says Qi. She emphasized that personal taxes were abolished in the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), resulting in national financial difficulties. The biggest problem since has been a mentality that is fundamentally anti-tax.

More recently, the tax bureaux have been working to publicize the merits of taxation. Sina.com, one of the top websites in China, invited tax officials and famous stars to chat online last month; tax law knowledge contests have also been held recently.

Besides the difficulty of changing attitudes, another key problem lies

in the inefficiency of tax law enforcement and an imperfect fiscal legal system, which may account for the increasing number of cases of tax fraud in recent years, the most celebrated of which is the Yuanhua smuggling affair in Xiamen.

### Know your rights

The other side of the tax conundrum is the need to raise awareness of taxpayers' rights. For example, Chinese law provides that taxpayers are entitled to supervise government fiscal annual reports through their deputies to the People's Congresses. Qi said the Chinese people have not yet learned to take advantage of their rights regarding tax paying and information.

## Peerless Polluter Packs its Bags

By Shan Jinliang

Beijing's biggest industrial polluter is to move its dirtiest operations out of the capital next year. Chairman of the Capital Iron & Steel Corporation Luo Bingsheng says this move is intended to ensure the company will not still be damaging the capital's environment at the time of the 2008 Olympics.

The corporation's biggest pollution source is its sintering plant, which handles 6 million tons of iron ore a year. Luo says this will be relocated to Qian'an in neighboring Hebei Province. Also moving to Qian'an are the five coking furnaces that are the third-biggest polluters owned by Capital Iron & Steel.

The corporation's No.2 source of pollution, the raw material yard, will be shut down and converted into a metallurgy museum or a tropical botanical garden.

The iron producer is said to be planning to spend 300 to 500 million yuan to create an "Iron & Steel



Capital Steel & Iron Corporation is cleaning up its act.

Photo by Lily

Garden" scenic spot in three to five years.

Luo says his corporation expects to invest 1.25 billion yuan in 18 environmental protection projects

in the next five years. By 2005, its discharges of smoke and dust will be cut by 85.5 percent; sulfur dioxide discharges will fall 89.3 percent. In addition, the company will reduce its annual steel output from 8 million to 6 million tons by the end of 2002.

"By then, our steel production process will be completely pollution free," said Luo. "The air quality around the company will be as good as that of the city [overall], or grade two [according to] the national standard."

Luo says his corporation actually helps Beijing's environment by using its blast furnaces to burn poisonous garbage like medical needles.

Capital Iron & Steel is the largest state enterprise in Beijing. Between 1996 and 2000, the company spent 906 million yuan on 189 pollution control projects. It has also been adjusting its production structure, with forays into the hi-tech and service industries.





Mom keeps a careful eye on baby

Photo by Sun Shu

## Hero Mother Panda Has 12th Baby

A 17-year-old giant panda in a breeding center in southwest China's Sichuan Province gave birth to her 12th baby last Tuesday, making her the panda that has given birth to the biggest number of offsprings in the world.

The female baby panda, born at the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding and Research Base, weighs 105 grams and is very healthy, experts at the base said. The mother panda, Qingqing, has been long known as the "hero mother" of the base. She has so far had eight deliveries, giving birth to 12 baby pandas, includ-

ing four sets of twins.

Qingqing's mother, Meimei had given birth to 11 baby pandas between 1980 and 1990.

Yu Jianqiu, deputy head of the base, said Qingqing seems to be proud of feeding all her babies by herself.

Another panda at the base, Jiaojiao, delivered a 125-gram baby on the same day.

The giant panda is one of the most endangered animals in the world. About 1,000 pandas remain most of which live in the mountains of Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

## A Whale of A Moon Festival Party

By Ivy Zhang

On September 30, Chinese Culture Club, in collaboration with Beijing Bamboo Garden Hotel, staged a hilarious party in celebration of the Chinese traditional Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, an event for family reunion falling on October 1, the same day as China's National Day. A mix of expatriates

and local people in Beijing totaling more than 150 had a ball on this wonderful moon-lit night with a great variety of activities including traditional Chinese music & dances, Beijing Opera, comic skits, Moon Festival tales, Monkey king acrobats, Qing Dynasty fashion show and moon cake eating competition.



Two foreign comedians perform a Chinese traditional love story named "Chang-E Flying up to the Moon"

Photo by Michael Reynolds



A customer compares fresh produce at Jinxiudadi market

Photo by Cui Hao

## New Market Bursting with Clean Greens

By Wang Yanyan

The first large-scaled green food wholesale market in Beijing, Jinxiudadi market (北京锦绣大地绿色安全食品专营市场), opened on September 26 with a total investment of 0.5 billion yuan. It aims at providing healthy food and initiating the safe consumption of green food.

Situated in Fushilu of Haidian District, Jinxiudadi plays the role of distribution center as well as exhibition. Jinxiudadi market covers an area of 1 million-sq. m. with 12 trade halls and 3 freezers, of 15,000 cubic meters. There are also many essential facilities, such as bank, post office, restaurant, clinics, and information centers.

It stocks nine kinds of food including vegetables, fruits, oil, meat, seafood, seasoning, and eggs. All food sold in the market must have met the standards of the quality testing center,

which has been built for Jinxiudadi at a cost of 8 million yuan.

In recent years, Beijingers have become more concerned about the safety of their food. Thus, the authorities hurried up the construction of a safety system for farm produce, issuing and carrying out the temporary standards. They ban the cultivating industry from using soporific, or hormonal tranquillizers. They also ban the plantation industry from using pesticide with high poison and residue. Instead, they actively encourage the use of biological pesticide as well as those with little poison and residue. At the same time, they reinforce supervision and control over edible farm produce. Furthermore, they will publish the name list of companies or industries whose produce meets the safety standards, while also exposing those who fail.

### Beijing court: Evidences Determine Results

By Zhao Meiyi / Shan Jinliang

Beijing judges make judgments solely based on the provable evidences that come to hand in due time from October 1, says the newly issued regulation by the Beijing Municipal People's High Court. The regulation, claimed to be the first of its kind in China, is to be carried out in a trial basis.

The old regulation stipulated the capital judges had to make decisions only after they probe into all the detailed facts by themselves, which is impractical and inefficient for timely judgments. The new one provides judges can rule upon the available evidences without consideration of the so-called "all absolutely true facts".

The new regulation prescribes all the parties to the lawsuit share the equal rights in evidence offers, equal time limit and evidence exchanges. Judges are forbidden to collect evidences and remain in neutral position in principle unless parties apply for it or it is crucial to handle the case. The court is not to adopt in principle the testimony by absent witnesses unless justifiable reasons can be offered or the court permits. Only the evidences shown and questioned on court can serve as proofs to determine the case.

The regulation also says the defendants have no duty to show evidences to prove innocent in criminal cases; governmental departments are lawfully required to collect evidences for the legality for their specific acts in administrative cases.

### China to Promote Bilingual Education

Colleges and universities across China will launch bilingual education to meet the need for bilingual personnel after the country's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Major courses such as information technology, bio-technology, new material technology, finance and law will be given in both Chinese and English, Beijing Youth Daily quoted a source from the Ministry of Education as saying recently.

Five to ten percent of the total courses will be taught in English, Zhang Yaoyue, an official in charge of higher education, was quoted as saying.

Bilingual education is not new in China. A number of primary and secondary schools, and even some kindergartens in Shanghai and Beijing, have been teaching in English.

"Bilingual education does not simply improve the students' oral English," the daily quoted Tang Shengchang, principal of a Shanghai-based secondary school, "it improves their overall linguistic ability and enables them to think in a second language."

Most bilingual schools in Shanghai have adopted original editions of textbooks from English-speaking countries and first-hand material downloaded from the Internet, so that the students can learn in a "pure English environment," Tang was quoted as saying.

However, the scarcity of bilingual teachers has become a major problem that hinders the development of bilingual education in China, as few seasoned science teachers speak good English, and English-speakers may not be able to give science lectures.

To solve this problem, the Ministry of Education will send more teachers to receive training overseas, said Zhang. "The first group will leave at the end of this year," he said. (Xinhua)

## Farming Taken off Wetlands

By Wang Jianhua / Shan Jinliang

China's 25 million hectares of wetlands are to be removed from the list of land to be cultivated, the Ministry of Agriculture said recently. The move is intended to intensify its efforts in environmental protection.

The National Wetland Coordination Committee noted the country's wetlands are not to be utilized in farming, aquaculture, and livestock farming. The country will enhance its overall grain production by increasing per-unit production and reclamation of abandoned land.

Wetlands refer to permanent or temporary marshes, swamps, muddy lands and water areas of at least 6 meters deep. Famed as the Liver of the earth, wet-

lands constitute the three ecological systems with forests and oceans. Without wetlands, mankind would suffer from more flooding, bad climate, lower fish stocks, fewer kinds of living beings, and polluted drinking water.

China is rich in wetlands, ranking No.4 in the world. Regretfully, China has in the past paid little or no attention to its valuable natural resources. Some 50 years have passed before China halted its cultivation on the remaining 50% sea beaches and 90% uncultivated lakes nationwide. Experts believe this has resulted in the recent frequently occurring flooding, droughts, red tides, sandy storms and desertification. It is

calculated the loss caused by the ecological destruction has risen from 4% to 8% of annual GDP.

Heilongjiang Province in Northeast China has begun conserving one-sixth of the national wetlands. Other parts in China are undergoing similar projects.

An exclusive policy and law system for wetlands and an advanced national ecological system-monitoring network are to be established throughout the country, according to the 20-year-old China Wetlands Protection Action Plan initiated from November 2000. Technical cooperation with international organizations is to be upgraded, the plan notes.

## Scoring on Footy Lottery

By Liu Jianwu / Wang Chun / Wang Yanyan

Chinese soccer lottery tickets will be on sale October 22 in twelve cities with the highest prize of five million yuan (temporary) for one round. It is said that it will sell every Tuesday and announce winners on Monday. Sun Jinfang, in charge of soccer lottery, says the lottery has come at the very time of an outstanding performance by the Chinese football team in the World Cup qualifier.

Lottery holders need to guess the outcome of the game, victory or defeat, of the English Premier Soccer League and Italian Soccer Series A. Amongst the two league games, thirteen matches will be selected from each round with each round regarded as one cycle. Thus whoever guesses the outcome of thirteen matches in a round will get the prize.

According to regulations, main referees will decide the final for the lottery. Moreover, if one, or two sides forfeit, or they refuse to play, or the competition has to postpone or break off for 24 hours due to objective factors, or the competition has to be moved up, the winner will be drawn in public.

The reason for choosing the English Premier Soccer League and Italian Series A, instead of Chinese domestic league matches, is that the two league games go beyond the year. This year's season started in March 2001, and ends in April 2002. Also there are still some imperfections in the Chinese League system. But lottery organizers will cooperate with the Chinese Football Association in order to make domestic league games become subjects for speculation soon.





## Wu Zheng Takes Co-chair

By Zhao Pu

After all the rumors and predictions, Sina and Sun-TV finally sat together.

Detailed information on the partnership and share swap between China's biggest Internet portal Sina.com and Hong Kong-based Sun Television Cybernetworks Holdings Ltd. (Sun-TV) was disclosed at a press conference last Tuesday.

As widely expected, Sun-TV chairman Wu Zheng, TV celebrity Yang Lan's husband, became co-chairmen together with Jiang Fengnian, the original chair of Sina.com.

The share swap gave Sina a 29% stake in Sun-TV and entitles it to be largest shareholder of the company. Sun-TV, however, got a 10% stake in Sina and is expected to increase its control in Sina to 16% to become the largest shareholder. Sun-TV thus hopes to bypass China-based Stone Group Corp which now controls 10.4% of Sina, depending on future business conditions of Sun-TV.

Both sides in the merger showed confidence in future cooperation, saying they would also be involved in joint promotions and sales and will establish a common advertising platform for their clients. "In enlarging and developing the media business, one determining factor is human resources, and the other is merging," stressed Wu Zheng at the conference.



## Beijingers Get Chance to Hunt for Cheese

By Jessica Yang

International best-seller *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson was released by CITIC Publication September 26 in Beijing. Meanwhile, around 210,000 copies have also been ordered by booksellers in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

With more than 20 million hardback and paperback copies sold in its first two years of publication, *Who Moved My Cheese?* has become the No. 1 best-selling book across the States - growing from a training tool for America's top companies like GE and IBM to a cultural phenomenon that is changing people's lives.

The story takes place in a maze where two mice, Sniff and Scurry, and two dwarfs, Hem and Haw, look for "Cheese". Cheese represents what's wanted in life, whether it's a job, a relationship, money, freedom, recognition, or spiritual peace. The "maze" in the story represents individuals' search for what they want. It could be the workplace, community, or relationships.

Spencer Johnson, M.D., is a No.1 best-selling author, and internationally respected thinker. His books have helped millions of people discover simple truths for living healthier lives with more success and less stress.

# TV Giant Back on Hot Seat

By Jason Young

China's largest color TV manufacturer Sichuan Changhong Electronics Group Corp. (Changhong) announced late September that they can annually produce 150,000-750,000, 40"-60" HDTVs. This is the first time CEO Ni Runfeng came under the spotlight since he resumed office.

Changhong experienced rapid progress in 1990s. The consumer-electronics producer is headquartered in the city of Mianyang, a two-hour drive from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. The company has overtaken its rivals on the coast with the nation's highest sales volume of color televisions and an annual production rate of 6.6 million units.

The former state-run military-radar factory was transformed into China's largest consumer-electronics company by Ni Runfeng, 58, the company's chief executive officer. In 1985, when Ni had just been promoted to the plant's top position, the company fell on hard times. At the time, the government ordered many such defense plants to switch to civilian operations. Government support fell drastically and the company was forced to fend for itself in the market for the first time.

The road from radar manufacturer to China's leading consumer-electronics manufacturer has hardly been a smooth one. It wasn't until the country was swept up in a consumer-electronics boom in the late 1980s that the company was able to experience growth.

The biggest obstacle was the company's lack of customer awareness. Even after the company acquired a production line for 17-inch TVs from Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. of Japan, most employees were still used to serving the military, and the idea of producing TVs was not greeted with much enthusiasm.

A flustered Ni drew inspiration from a Chinese expression that says a nation can only be taken one castle at a time. He drew up highly



Ni Runfeng's first thing is to push the sale of TVs

Photo by Photocom



By Jason Young

58-year-old Ni Runfeng once thought about retirement. But Changhong won't let him go.

Ni's economical approach to management has earned him fame in Chinese business circles. He drives himself around Mianyang to save on the cost of hiring a driver. Though he invests in plants and equipment, his office is housed in a 1950s-era building.

"Changhong is an apple that has yet to ripen," said Ni, who has plans to diversify the company into personal computers in the future. The company is aiming at becoming a major player in information-based consumer electronics in the 21st century.

Ni Runfeng is a politician as well as a businessman. He resigned in 2000 and came back 8 months later to avoid a backlash of criticism.

## Lack of Law Stumps Lawsuit

Yorkpoint case delayed

By Zhao Yijiang

363 minority shareholders of Yorkpoint (0008.sz) were notified that the lawsuit they filed against the listed company was suspended by the Supreme People's Court for necessary legal preparation recently.

The No.1 Intermediate People's Court of Beijing has decided to postpone legal proceedings against Yorkpoint and four Guangdong investment firms last Thursday, just after receiving a circular from the Supreme People's Court.

### Embarrassment of the courts

Some say the Securities Law does not carry terms that clearly define civil compensation in case of misconduct of listed companies, fund managers and brokerages. Actually, the existing laws including the Civil Procedural Law and the Securities Law can provide an adequate legal basis in handling such cases.

In 1998 a court in Shanghai rejected a similar case against PT Hongguang without explanation after initially agreeing to take it. "It's not that we don't have a law to apply, it's a judicial precedent that we're lacking," said Xuan Weihua, a solicitor who is representing some Yorkpoint shareholders.

The court is not currently able to handle such a tough case, mainly because the court system is short of judges specialized in financial fields. If the court opens the gate of group litigation in this field, a flood of lawsuits against listed companies, major shareholders, investment firms and even the CSRC will be filed by millions of shareholders.

### Time for courts to step in

In a country with the rule of law, the court should be the final judge of all kinds of lawsuits, including financial cases.

Now is the time for courts to enter the capital market and take the responsibility to make the final judgment. But what embarrasses the courts most is that they don't have the ability to solve complicated financial cases such as market manipulation, inside trading, fraud in stock issuance, mendacious capital restructuring, and disclosure and dissemination of false information.

"It's not canceled, it's just delayed. I can understand the court's decision on suspending the case temporarily. I believe the Supreme Court will make positive judicial preparations to make the legal process consistent," said Guo Feng, a Beijing lawyer representing the investors.



It is said that interpretation of related laws is to be conducted to enlighten dealings with such lawsuits in the very near future.

Shareholders are experiencing hard times

Photo by Chen Shuyi

By Yang Xiao

Jixiang Theatre, which was torn down for refurbishment in Wangfujing Shopping Street, will reopen in 2003.

Around the construction site 15 temporary shops have sprung up. The bosses of the shops are up to their elbows in decorating, having opened for trade on September 28 for celebrating October 1, National Day. The chief representative Tong Pei is confident about business.

*Beijing Today* interviewed Tong Pei 4 months ago. At that time he was upset for backing out of the Green House Shopping Center. The shopping center gave him a 50 million yuan income over 3 years. But the government ordered him to tear down the shopping center. From then on he could not generate any income.

"To build Jixiang Theatre will cost 800 to 900 million yuan. We cannot stick to 2003 if the government bans us from building temporary shops," Tong said at that time. Tong served in Fenglong Real Estate Properties, a Hong Kong based company. It is the major shareholder on building Jixiang Theatre.

Fenglong attracted investment from two companies controlled by Dongcheng District Government and Beijing municipal Culture Bureau this summer. Last month Beijing and Dongcheng District allowed them to build temporary shops. Thus Fenglong will quickly be able to generate profits of about 10 million yuan per year. "About 100 names showed great enthusiasm in renting the 15 precious shops: we chose the top 15, including Citizen and Giordano."

Rent comes at \$5/sqm/day. It is about 4 times the rate of the most expensive real estate area, the China World Trade Center. "Although the average 1.5 million yuan rent is a bit expensive, all the accountants have great confidence. We are pleased that we can hold on until completion of the Jixiang Theater in 2003," Tong smiled.

## Temp Shops Enter Wangfujing

Golden floor space at \$5 /sqm /day



Temp shops already opened at Wangfujing last Thursday

Photo by Chen Shuyi

## Real Estate Fair to be Held in January

By Williams

A real estate fair called "Home and High Technology" is due to be held from January 24-27, 2002 in the China World Trade Center in Beijing. The fair will be sponsored by Beijing Municipal Construction Committee,

Haikaijiyuan Real Estate Information Consulting Co., Ltd., and Zhongminhang Economy and Trade (Beijing).

Lectures will be given during the fair, informing visitors about how to choose and purchase an apartment. The Zhongguancun Science and Technol-

ogy Supervisory Committee will function as the scientific consultant, while Shenzhen Digital Network Co., Ltd. will supply the fair with a net service.

Book office income of the fair will be donated to the Youth and Children Science Foundation.



# Rail Investment on Fast Track

Hordes of companies from home and abroad are expected to flood China's transportation sector in the coming years, said officials at the Second China Railway and Urban Transport Exhibition (ChinaRail 2001) on September 26.

Drawn by the lure of China's pending accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Beijing's successful bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games, investors are expected to target the rail industry in particular, according to sources from the Exhibition.

According to the news release from ChinaRail 2001, China will construct 7,000 kilometers of new railways during the 10th Five-Year Plan period (2001-2005), of which 5,000 kilometers will be of electric railways.

In addition, another 450 kilometers of urban railways in more than 10 cities are due for completion in 2005, bringing the total operation mile-



age of railways in China to 80,000 kilometers by 2015.

The achievements of China's rail transport construction in the Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1996-2000) have captured world attention, said Zhang Kui-fu, secretary-general of the China Urban Public Transport Association, at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

According to the 10th Five Year Plan, various levels of the country's governments will make a total investment of 350 billion yuan in railway construction. Of this, 270 billion will be used for the construction of new rails, 80 billion for the renovation and replacement of current rail transportation facilities. It is expected that by the end of 2006 when the 10th Five Year Plan ends, the total length of the country's railway lines will reach 75,000 kilometers, 14,000 of which will be for passenger transportation. (Xinhua)

## Magnesium Base Opened to Overseas Investment

Dashiqiao, a magnesium base in northeast China's Liaoning province, unveiled plans to attract foreign investment early last week in Shenyang, capital city of Liaoning province.

In the coastal area around the Bohai Sea, researchers have found 34 types of mineral resources, including 2.5 billion tons of magnesium and 5 million tons of talc.

Magnesium researchers and manufacturers from many other countries including the United States, France, Australia, Britain, Germany, Canada and Japan have come to the region recently to carry out investigations and seek opportunities for cooperation.

Magnesium has been widely used in mineral processing, construction material, food and other industries. Nowadays it is used in laptop computers, small video cameras and other electronic industrial products.

The local government welcomes potential foreign investors and has formulated a series of preferential policies including tax exemption for overseas investment.

(Xinhua)

## Foreign Advocacy Firms Confident in Chinese Market

By Zhao Hongyi

"With China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), a number of the country's industrial sectors like the high-tech industry, Internet, and telecommunications industry show great potential to most foreign investors," said Mr. Jon Eichelberger, chief representative of the newly established Beijing Office of Perkins Coie LLP, a law and advocacy partnership company from the United States.

"Being a sophisticated law firm specializing in hi-tech industry, Perkins Coie LLP hopes to play a role in China's rapidly developing hi-tech enterprises and offering high quality services of international standards."

According to Mr. Eichelberger, the business scope of foreign law firms in China has experienced great changes in recent years. "Venture restructuring, intellectual property rights protection and product reputation protection have emerged as the major issues foreign law firms are involved in. Meanwhile, more and more Chinese enterprises have put their eyes and capital on the overseas market, which they are not familiar with yet. This offers us a role to play."

According to statistics, there are nearly 50 foreign law firms active in China, of which only three are involved in hi-tech related business.

## Taiwan Investment Encouraged after China's WTO Entry

China will continue to encourage Taiwan investment in the mainland and protect Taiwanese investors' interests after the two sides of the Taiwan Straits enter the World Trade Organization (WTO), a spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council said in Beijing on September 26.

The Taiwan authority has been called upon to lift their limitations on investment as soon as possible by those Taiwanese who are doing business on the Chinese mainland. It is believed that only then will the latter be able to grasp the opportunity of sharing in cross-Straits prosperity, Mr. Zhang Mingqing, the spokesman for the Office told a press conference.

The WTO entry of the two sides will boost trade across the Straits, and facilitate the realization of the three direct links, namely in business, transportation and mail, Zhang said. (Xinhua)

## Olympic Business Whets International Business Appetite

By Zhao Hongyi

Soon after Beijing succeeded in its bid to host the 2008 Olympics, a new concept was born: "Olympic Business".

Infrastructure construction and TV broadcasting of the games are just some of the business opportunities luring companies and investors from abroad. Although the Olympic Organizing Committee has not yet been established, overseas companies have contacted the Beijing municipal government expressing an interest in cooperation in projects.

The largest ever business delegation from Australia visited Beijing from September 24-26 to hold an international economic and trade exchange symposium with the China Chamber for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

Under the title of "New Beijing, Great Olympics", more than 90 Australian businessmen from 60 companies presented their experience of preparing for the Olympic Games, including facilities design, construction, maintenance, comprehensive organizing. The delegate exchanged views with more than 100 enterprises, government bodies and other institutions related to the 2008 Olympic Games.

Intelsat, an international organization founded in 1964 and transformed into a commercial entity in July this year, also came to the city and expressed their intention to provide worldwide live broadcasting programs for the 2008 Olympic Games. Even though Intelsat's in business in China occupies only 2 per cent of their total scale, they still list China as one of their ten largest markets.

In the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, Intelsat provided a total of 40,000 hours programs worldwide, 70 percent of all the live broadcast programs in the Games. In fact, some Chinese partners have already booked live broadcast programs for the 2008 Olympic Games from Intelsat.

Meanwhile, Beijing has to construct all contest sites, expand the fifth and sixth ring roads and the rail transportation system, while renovating and enlarging the airport. Construction of the National Museum and the Chinese Arts Museum will begin at the same time. Relevant organizations have claimed that to ensure high standards, all design, construction, equipment purchasing and quality monitoring will be carried out by means of open, transparent bidding. All enterprises, including state owned enterprises, joint ventures, foreign companies are welcome to participate in the bidding contest.

According to sources from Beijing municipal government, preferential conditions and exclusive operating rights of advertisement will be granted to those involved in the construction of infrastructure projects with huge investment and long-term repayment. The government will assist ventures involved in applying for loans and credit worldwide, and support them to collect money from the domestic capital market.



Students crowded around an Ericsson stand at a career fair.

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

# University Students See Future in IT

By Bao Yunfan / Shan Jinliang

Graduate numbers from China's institutions of higher education have been on the increase, putting immense pressure on the country's already enlarged employment market.

It is estimated that the number of graduates next year will be around 80,000, 10,000 more than the number of this year. 70,000 have Bachelor's Degrees, with 10,000 holding Master's Degrees, or higher.

To deal with the situation, the municipal government declared it would hold more professional, government-backed employment fairs. These fairs are scheduled for early July each year, before the grad-

uation time of most universities and colleges. More details can be obtained at [www.bjby.net.cn](http://www.bjby.net.cn).

But what about those 80 thousand graduates? What kind of jobs do they prefer?

A recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Education revealed IT companies are the favorites of Chinese university students. Finance & insurance industry and household necessities rank second and third respectively.

Statistics say nearly all the first 20 companies preferred by students, 12 of whom are foreign-funded, belong to the IT industry; while the first 50, 26 of which are foreign, are IT companies. Celebrated international corporations like Microsoft,

IBM and Motorola are listed in the first group.

Among local companies, IT names like Legend, media like CCTV, and financial institutions like the Bank of China are targeted. Students also go for other names like Haier, Huawei, China Unicom, China Telecom, and Founder. The preferred cities for finding jobs include Shanghai (32.3 %), Beijing (27.7%) and Shenzhen (12.1%).

The survey was directly carried out by Chinese University Students Employment, a magazine under the Ministry of Education. Methods used included questionnaires and online survey. Over 30,000 questionnaires were collected from 28 universities around the country.

# Pot of Gold at Science Park Rainbow

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing Zhongguancun Science Park has set up a new specific fund to attract overseas Chinese talent back to start their careers in the Chinese silicon valley.

The 70 million yuan fund was set up and directly injected by the administrative agency of the science park, named as the Zhongguancun Science Park Administrative Committee, backed by the Beijing Municipal Government. Two purposes were defined for the use of the fund in the future.

Firstly, a service system will be implemented to facilitate overseas Chinese, those Chinese scholars and students staying abroad in particular, to explore business and career opportunities in the park. Detailed proposals include inviting overseas talent back to study the investment environment and take part in academic exchanges. Other programs provide business incubators for these students and scholars, and awards to



Mainstreet in silicon Zhongguancun.

Photo by Chen Shuyi

those making special contributions.

Secondly, the fund will provide support to those with concrete intentions to start businesses in the park. Possible means include registration capital injection and subsidiaries, totally free of charge, to the business starters. Loans can also be made from the fund wherever needed.

The committee has also opened the door for free capital from the market to enter the fund. As far as Beijing Today has learnt, more than 700 million yuan from the market has promised to enter into the seed fund. This allows the fund to extend loans or subsidiaries from 100,000 to one million yuan.

Mr. Liu Zhihua, the director general of the administrative committee and vice major of the municipality, confirmed the other day the committee will inject a certain amount of capital into the fund each year and will always welcome investment funds to participate.



## National Geographic Visits Beijing Primary Schools

By Sun Ming

Recently, Bob Caputo, a photographer from the *National Geographic Magazine* visited some subsidiary stations of Hand in Hand Earth Villages in Beijing.

Up to now, the Hand in Hand Earth Villages has already established more than 200 subsidiary stations in China's primary schools, 100 of which are located in Beijing.

Their members, the pupils of these primary schools, are encouraged to collect recyclable products and then sell them to recycling companies. All earnings from the sales are used to set up Hand in Hand Environmental Protection Primary Schools for children in poverty

stricken areas in China.

At Baiyunlu Primary School, a subsidiary station of Hand in Hand Earth Villages, Bob Caputo was kept busy snapping shots as ten students put their families' daily rubbish, which they had sorted and classified themselves, into a dustbin one by one.

"Hand in Hand Earth Villages is a wonderful organization. I can see the efforts of the Chinese government on environmental protection," said Bob Caputo. He said he was excited on hearing that so many Chinese school kids were applying themselves to the activities of environmental protection, and he plans to return to Beijing next spring to do a follow-up story.

## Mock Branches Replace "Iron Walking Sticks"



Over 30 old trees in Beijing Zoo are now supported by "branches", which look so lifelike that visitors often mistake them for real ones.

In recent years, iron posts were commonly employed to prop up ancient or old trees; thus, the trees seemed to be supported by "walking sticks". Beijing Zoo has substituted the old props with model branches that are solid metal inside, covered with a bark-like material. In this way, the old trees remain beautiful as well as stable.

(Liu Jinmei)

Photo by Bai Xuesong

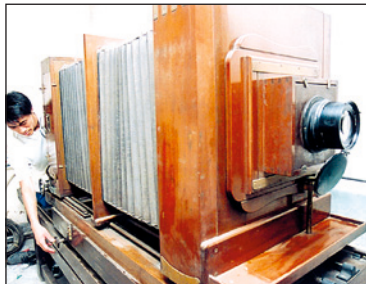
## Giant Antique Camera Seeks New Home

By Sun Ming

"I decide to sell my old camera because I need the money to pay my tuition fees," said Liu Zheng, a 21-year-old orphan. The camera, an enormous wooden contraption designed to photograph drawings, was left to him by his father who passed away one year ago.

According to Liu, the 4-meter-long camera witnessed the changes of his family. During the mid 1980s, when he was a child, his family circumstances were quite good. At that time his father owned a factory producing circuit boards. To photograph blueprints, his father spent 8,000 yuan to buy the secondhand professional camera, which was already several decades old.

However in 1988, his mother contracted a serious kidney disease. Besides spending more than 100,000 yuan on a kidney transplant operation, his father had to pay nearly 10,000 yuan for medicine every month. The expenses were so great that his father had to sell his factory and Liu had to left school. But none of these



Liu Zheng demonstrates the 4-meter-long camera he hopes to find new home for

Photo by Zhuang Jian

measures were enough to save the life of his mother. Then last year, his father succumbed to heart disease. Only the enormous old camera and 2,000 yuan were left to Liu.

"Now I can only find some part-time jobs because I haven't graduated from middle school. I want to raise some money to pay my tuition fees by selling it," said Liu. According to him, the old wooden camera can still take photos of scenery or portraits, even though it isn't very easy to operate. "But it has high collection value, I think," said Liu.



Professor Wu Dinghuan, practitioner of the royal manipulation method of traditional medicine

Photo by Qiu Binbin

## Trust Chinese Medicine

By Ivy Zhang

"We trust the traditional Chinese Medicine. It's very effective," says Cho Myong-Re, a 23-year-old Tokyo hotel employee. "At the recommendation of a friend who has been successfully treated with Chinese medicine, we came to Beijing just to see a Chinese doctor here."

This pale and thin girl arrived in Beijing along with her parents last Wednesday and visited the Yanhuang Traditional Chinese Medical Hospital the next day. During their one-day stay at the hospital, the whole family, who are originally from Korea and now live in Japan, were expecting to benefit from treatment with Chinese medicine. The father received treatment for arthritis in one leg, the mother for allergy and the daughter for dizziness and weight-loss.

Yanhuang Hospital is located on the east side of Tiananmen Square. The building is the former residence of Premier Zhou Enlai and in the early part of the century housed the American Consulate. Founded in 1997, the hospital is committed to

developing traditional Chinese medical culture and improving people's health and well being in the 21st century.

Staffed by expert medical practitioners, the hospital can draw its expertise from a pool of 108 professors, most of whom have been practicing for more than 40 years. Operated on a membership basis, the hospital has three main functions - difficult and complicated diagnostic center to provide various medical services, health care management center for herbal shower, acupuncture, massage and beauty services, and VIP club for members to meet and try special nourishing food.

The healing power of traditional Chinese medicine is known around the world, benefiting not only Chinese but people from all over the world. According to vice general manager Wang Bin, and supervisor of the tour department Frank Lin, the hospital has some 400 members, among which 1/3 are from the United States, Japan and South East Asia. Former Australian Prime Minister Bob

Hawk and former President of Philippines Fidel V. Ramos are among those from overseas who have received treatment here.

"In July this year, we treated, an American professor from University of Management and Technology, who had a back problem and was scheduled to leave for Shanghai the following day," Pro. Wu Ding-huan who has developed a new method in the diagnosis and treatment of different orthopedic problems in his 50 years practice said, "When he came in, he could not straighten his back. After about 10 minutes of manipulation and massage, he felt much better and was able to stand up straight and walk properly."

Professor Wu, born in 1923, is the son-in-law and student of an imperial orthopedic surgeon of the Qing dynasty. "Both Chinese and Western medicine have their own strengths and advantages. Chinese medicine is good at treating fractures, dislocations, soft tissue injuries and so on, while western medicine is good at operations," he says.



Photo by Xi Yuming

## 2 Fen's Big-bowl-tea Returns to Beijing

By Sun Ming

The famous Lao She Teahouse at Qianmen has resumed selling big-bowl-tea for 2 fen a bowl (1 yuan = 100 fen). The cheapest tea in town is proving a big hit locals and tourists alike.

2 fen's big-bowl-tea was once a common refreshment, available in many teahouses around town. However gradually, fewer and fewer establishments sold the tea, and for a long time, it was only available from the Lao She Teahouse, but then in 1999, it too, stopped selling it.

According to Yin Shengxi, the manager of Lao She Teahouse, the teahouse used to attract many customers by selling 2 fen's big-bowl-tea. For various reasons, they stopped selling it two years ago, however to meet the demands of thirsty tourists in the vicinity of Qianmen during the National Day holiday, they are again selling the tea.

"We can sell nearly 1,000 bowls of the tea a day," says An Zejing, a waiter at the teahouse. He says all kinds of people have been coming in for 2 fen's big-bowl-tea since they resumed selling it; old men, children and tourists. Some take photos while they hold a bowl of tea in their hands; some express the hope that the teahouse will continue selling the cheap tea forever; "They have a deep feeling for the big bowl tea," says An.



By Liu Jinmei

★ The construction of a new library operating under the Chinese Academy of Sciences was completed recently in Zhongguancun. The new library is said to be China's largest one with the country's most advanced computerized management system.

★ Sixteen temporary "environmentally friendly" public toilets have been set up in certain subway stations for the duration of the National Day holiday, in order to cater to the increased number of passengers. The toilets are coin operated.

★ 5 thousand cactuses and other plants from America are on show at the Beijing Botanical Garden during the holiday. Most of them are introduced to China for the first time.

★ "Beijing Book Market 2001" will be held at the Beijing Worker's Cultural Palace from October 12 to 21. With the theme "new century, new viewpoint, new culture", the market will include more than 300 publishing houses and bookstores displaying a variety of books covering different fields.

## Light Rail Display Attracts Beijingers

Even though Beijing's light rail is still under construction, many Beijingers are very curious about this new mode of public transport. The light rail exhibit at the recent International Rail Transportation Technology Equipment 2001 at the Beijing Exhibition Hall attracted numerous visitors.

Models of many modern light rail vehicles currently in use around the world today were shown. Construction companies from France, Germany, Japan, Holland, Spain displayed all their latest models. According to the organizer of the exhibition, these firms are keen to secure a share of the market in the coming large-scale construction of light railways in China. (Sun Ming)

Photo by Wang Zhenlong



## Run for Charity

By Sun Ming

The Beijing Terry Fox Run 2001 will take place on Saturday October 27. Everyone is welcome to join in. Participants can run, walk, cycle, roller blade or use their wheel chair to cover the 7-kilometer distance.

Terry Fox is a national hero in Canada. While still at university in 1977, he was diagnosed with bone cancer and his right leg had to be amputated.

In 1980, he started a run across Canada on an artificial leg to raise money for cancer research. His journey was called

the Marathon of Hope. Although he was forced to abandon his run half way, Terry Fox had already become a source of inspiration to millions of people.

Following his death in 1981, volunteers began holding runs to commemorate his feat and raise money for cancer research. Last year in Beijing, 8,000 people participated in the Terry Fox Run, raising 500,000 yuan.

For more information about the run in Beijing, please email: [beijing-co@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:beijing-co@dfait-maeci.gc.ca) or call the Public Affairs section of the Canadian Embassy at 6532-3536, 3537, 3538 or 3266.



# Ladystreet Takes Mantle of Sanlitun & Silk Markets

By Chen Ying/Xiao Rong

Ladystreet Dressing Plaza, the biggest retail clothes market in the east of Beijing, has been open for business since September 22. A total of more than 150, 000 visitors strolled through the market in the first two days. The total number of visitors leveled out somewhere between 50, 000 and 80, 000 over the following days, said Tang Zhe, manager of public relations department, Ladystreet.

Though it is called "street", Ladystreet more closely resembles a huge market. The total number of stalls surpasses 1,800. Shoppers will be able to purchase clothing, make a selection of beautiful flowers, and pick up stationery all in the same place. The investors of Ladystreet have courted controversy by giving the names of famous international commercial streets to various parts of the complex. This move has attracted wide attention from the media, since some consider rights have been violated.

All indications are that Ladystreet is ready for the challenge of the market. Whether it will become another Sanlitun or Silk Street is another question weighing on customers' minds. Opinions follow:

**Tang Zhe, manager of public relations department, Ladystreet**

In preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games, the Beijing government has resolved to remove any temporary buildings and widen roads. Thus markets of Sanlitun and Baiyun have been dismantled, and it is believed Silk Street will suffer a similar fate sooner or later. The downside to this change of the shopping map is that more than 5,000 vendors will become unemployed if the government is unable to provide

for them. Moreover it is common knowledge that many customers enjoy shopping in the Sanlitun and Silk markets because of their attractive, fashionable bargains. Investors plan to win over shoppers' taste with the newly opened Ladystreet.

Many business persons from the dismantled markets are eager to establish a presence in Ladystreet. The government is keen to support them in providing new jobs. The combination of committed government support, and large numbers of enthusiastic stallholders explain why Ladystreet can operate so quickly after just three months' preparation.

Ladystreet is located in the Lufthansa Center business zone close to office buildings. Unlike Dongdan and Wangfujing business zones however, there is no high street area for shopping. In common with Sanlitun and Silk Streets, Ladystreet is only a stone's throw away from one of the embassy districts in Beijing. At present embassies of Japan, South Korea, and Germany are nearby. There are plans to build new embassies of the USA, India and Israel. Thus Ladystreet will become an attraction for many foreigners living in Beijing, as well as tourists.

**Chen Lili, a consumer**

I think the quality of the clothes is not as good as the media make out. I am disappointed. The goods may attract teenagers, but are a far cry from the taste of white-collar. If vendors can't select fashionable and elegant clothing, the market will eventually lose clients. Customers can purchase both popular and unique clothes in Silk Street, which is what attracts them there in the first place. There are also many stores selling ornaments

and nicknacks in Ladystreet. I feel the handicrafts need to improve their quality. Women want to buy exquisite ornaments no matter the price is.

**Dai Jianzhong, the Academy of Social Sciences of Beijing**

Although I haven't been to Ladystreet since its opening, I doubt it will prosper in the future. First, the location of the street is not as favorable as that of Silk Market and Sanlitun Street. The latter two streets are very near the Sanlitun embassy area, which attracts a lot of foreigners. In sharp contrast, Ladystreet is located almost two blocks outside the east third ring road instead of inside it. So it's difficult to find first-time customers.

Second, for a commercial street, the most important factor of its success is the unique products and service which make a deep impression on customers. Being the first of its kind in Beijing, Ladystreet has a special advantage. Its first priority must be to establish a confident image for selling women's items. Take Hong Kong and Guangzhou for example, where there are high-profile Ladystreets for women to buy anything they desire all in the same street. Beijing's Ladystreet will only achieve long-term prosperity when it has created a unique style, giving a name for itself like Silk Market and Sanlitun Street.

Third, it is inappropriate of the management to use famous names, like Silk Market, Sanlitun, Xidan to differentiate sections of the Street, although they claim it will help customers find booths more easily. Such action would cause a law suit against the management, which would affect further development.

**Zhang Xiuqin, stallholder from Silk Market**

I don't think Ladystreet will be popular in the future. To become a famous brand takes a lot of time and hard work. Silk Market was founded more than 15 years ago, and it has become one of the most famous tourist attractions to foreigners in Beijing. This is our unique advantage. But for Ladystreet, there is still a long long way to go before they establish their own style. The reason it has attracted so many customers in the opening first week is mainly due to its discounts. But it cannot discount or hand out gifts all year round, so it needs to improve its management to achieve long-term success. Besides, we don't agree with its using the brand name of "Silk Market". This name is the invisible capital of our hard work and intelligence which they cannot appropriate so easily. It's unfair competition.

**Liu Ping, Beijing Tianwei Lawyer's Institute**

From the aspect of law, the use of "Silk Market", "Sanlitun Street" or "Xidan Street" by Ladystreet does not constitute illegal behavior that has infringed other's legal rights. This is because these names are only public geographical names which don't possess proprietary rights. No private businessman can register the ownership of the street names for lack of subject qualification. Besides, customers will not confuse the "Silk Market" or "Sanlitun Street" with the real ones. So even if it's not proper for Ladystreet to do so, it's not against the law. And in this case, it's more appropriate for the government departments to strengthen management to prevent non-standard marketing behavior.

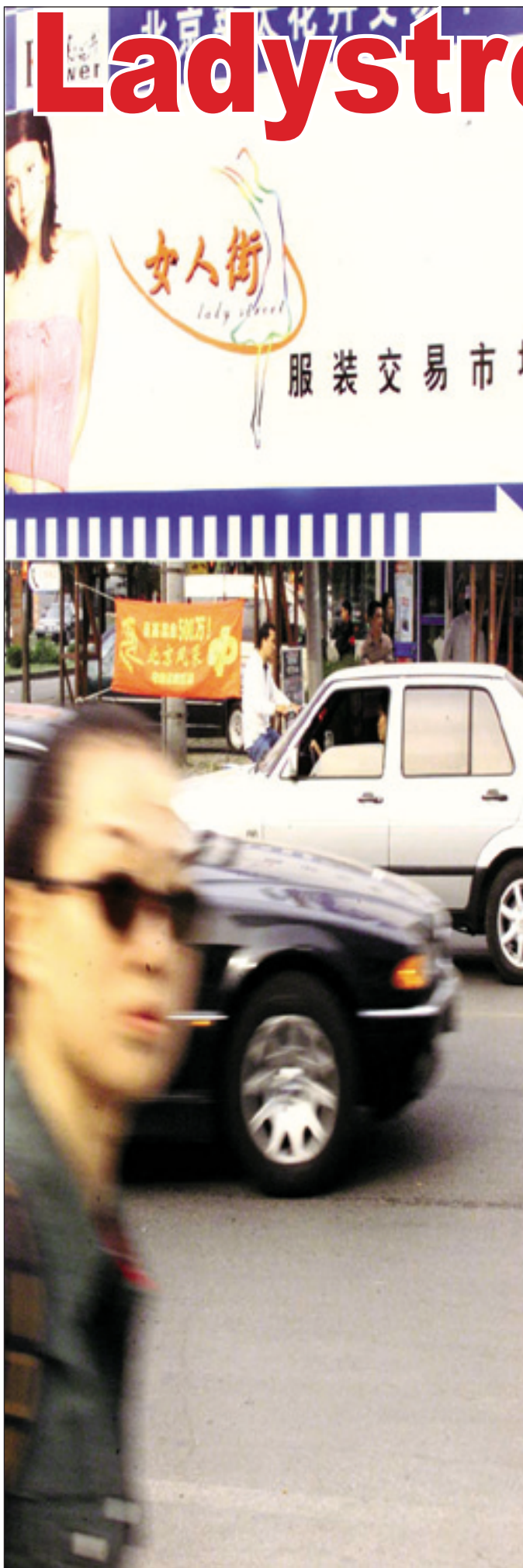


Photo by Lily

## Celebrities Kicked Out of Medicine Ads

By Chen Ying

Celebrities are to be banned from acting as a patient in any form of advertising for medicines. A forum on new "Medicine Advertisement Investigation Rules", held in Xi'an at the beginning of September, ruled such action illegal.

Household names like movie stars, directors, and writers have long featured in TV commercials. These respected, elite personalities convince viewers of the reliability and effectiveness of medicines.

Although the new rules are still under modification, it is said that advertisements for medicines or tonics will not be permitted to use national administrations, medicine research institutes, and medical schools as backdrops. Also employees, experts and patients from the above institutions cannot be asked to provide evidence to prove the medicines' effect. Advertisements will be prohibited from including famous persons describing medicines' function. Opinions follow:

**Zhang Yanfang and Lu Qi, spokeswomen of Beijing Dewai Hospital**

We absolutely agree with the new rules. In our opinion, everything concerning medical treatment shouldn't and needn't make advertisements. The

effects of the medicine and tools have been proved during the testing period. Their functions don't need propagation by the elite. If there is any problem, the hospital and relevant organizations will make a decision and contact the medicine factories.

It used to be the nourishment products and expensive medicines that advertised. On the other hand many medicines never advertise, such as penicillin. Factories don't need say anything because it's cheap and effective.

Some advertisements really mislead the patients. As patients, they don't know which one is suitable for their symptoms. Only doctors can judge the degree of a patient's disease and suggest what kind of medicine is appropriate.

Celebrities usually know little about the medicine. It's definitely market logic that makes them appear in certain advertisements. The stars get the money, and the factories get a bigger market.

**Gao Chunlan, a patient**

I never believe what the ads say. It is obvious that medicine factories want to increase profits by inviting celebrities to appear in their adverts. As patients, they should follow the doctor's advice and take the medicine accordingly.



A celebrity in an medical advert

Members of the public often buy medical products under the temptation of advertising if they have limited medical knowledge. And, if factories spend huge sums of money to invite celebrities to appear in adverts, then the cost of medicine must increase.

**Wang Qianhu, chief of legal department, China Consumers' Association**

Celebrities in advertisements have a very bad influence on society, especially those in fake and illegal advertisements. Their fame exaggerates the

function value of the product catching the consumer unawares. This is how medical products can cause the most harm to patients.

A company makes huge profits after advertising its product. There are two major beneficiaries: the investor of the advert, and the actor or actress it features. Consumers are the only suffers. It is easy to punish the investor. But it is irresponsible on the part of the celebrities that they get the money, and haven't any duty to law.

**Zhao Benshan, famous comedian**

Celebrities should take advertising for the business. After all, the medicine's purpose is to heal the patients. Since the government has issued a quality diploma on products, why shouldn't celebrities take part in their advertising? Consumers should believe the various medical administrations if they don't believe the factories. The administration can't issue a quality diploma to a product that doesn't qualify.

What I want to emphasize is that celebrities should never feature in advertising for inferior products. Furthermore there are many reasons causing a medicine's effect on patients. Therefore, medicines must have an explanation attached.

### SOUND BITES

*"The two sides will resume full security cooperation and exert maximum efforts to sustain the declared cease-fire. In accordance with the parties' commitments, they will carry out all their security obligations emanating from previous agreements, and the government of Israel will begin to lift closures and redeploy its forces."*

**—Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat read out to reporters in a joint statement made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat September 26 in a new bid to forge a lasting truce that could boost U.S. efforts to create a global anti-terror coalition.**

*"There is continued uncertainty. We are not in times where you see runaway markets on the upside. Markets are going to continue to be subject to extraneous events. Traders are going to take some very short-term views of the markets."*

**—A.C. Moore, chief investment strategist at Dunvegan Associates.**

*"Deep Space 1 plunged into the heart of Comet Borrelly and has lived to tell every detail of its spine-tingling adventure. The images are even better than the impressive images of Comet Halley taken by Europe's Giotto spacecraft in 1986."*

**—Marc Rayman, project manager of Deep Space 1 at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, told reporters at a press conference on September 25.**

By Chen Ying



# A Comic Tale

By Chen Ying

Chinese comics have their own unique style and content. They have long been popular, but perhaps never so much so as from the end of the 1970s to the mid 1980s.

During that period, even the most obscure titles had print runs of 200,000, while the popular ones might reach one million or more copies. Every publishing house had its own comic-creating group, and the printing press wouldn't be tuned on for a run of less than 100,000 issues.

However the situation deteriorated after 1985. Sales dropped dramatically, and from 1990 to 1995, it was considered a good deal to get 3,000 copies of a story printed. Order numbers of more than 10,000 copies were unheard of.

Xinhua Bookstore, as the major distributor, began to choose titles more cautiously, and many bookstores did away with their comic counters altogether.

There was one bright spot during 1991. Because of the success of a TV adaptation of the classic novel Romance of three kingdoms, a demand arose for comics with an historical theme. However seeking a quick profit, many publishers produced poor quality comics, and the demand soon fell off again.

But since 1996, collecting old editions of comic versions of classics such as Outlaws of the Marshes, A Dream of Red Mansions, Journey to the West and Romance of Three Kingdoms has seen a resurgence in popularity.

This interest has led to many publishers reprinting the old editions. Print runs for these have been more than 5,000 copies in most cases, and reached 10,000 for the most popular ones.

Most of the bookstores at Haidian Book City have comic sections. An amateur collector named Guang Shu selects a comic at a small bookstore.

"Most of the classics are too long to read for an average person. Comics provide an easy way to understand the masterpieces. I started reading comics when I was four years old. I stopped when I went to middle school. However when I saw an old edition comic on a bookshelf in 1993, I was reminded of how much pleasure they used to give me," says Guang.

"Through collecting, I found there are many differences between the comics published before 1984 and those published after 1984. For the older ones, authors used traditional drawing techniques and the components are so beautiful and interesting. But after 1984, the contents became more and more shallow, and can't compare with those older ones."

"By the way, although there are a few excellent comic series imported from Japan and other countries, most are roughly made. They are full of violence and sex. It's just visual stimulus. I enjoy reading the old edition Chinese comics, because there is something you can learn from them, the traditional culture, the virtue, and so on," he adds.

Guang's opinion is typical of most Chinese comic readers. Most think that the quality of today's comics needs to improve. They also want to read more interesting new stories.

What caused the decline of the Chinese comic? There may be three main reasons.

During the mid 1980s, the renaissance period of the Chinese comic, so many artists were involved in comic drawing. Regardless of their preferred medium, oils, watercolor, or print, they also drew comics, and technique reached a very high level.

This led to considerable competition among painters, which was also beneficial to their growth. But many paid so much attention to their technique, that they forgot that the main function of the comic was to entertain the readers.

They attempted to pursue sometimes obscure art styles, leaving readers unable to understand the stories. The more complicated the technique they tried to use, the more readers they lost. At the same time, many publishers, attempting to increase profits by printed inferior quality books.

Meanwhile, people found they had more choices in terms of entertaining themselves as a consequence of China's reform and opening up policies, initiated in the late 1970s. They were not satisfied with simply going to the cinema or reading comic books.

With the fall-off in readers, Xinhua bookstores began decreasing order quantities. Publishers had to raise the prices of comics to offset the falling sales, and this led to the loss of even more readers.

With the less demand for their work, many of the best artists sought other means of making a living. All of these factors resulted in less demand, lower sales and the deteriorating recycle.

As creators, the painters get less for their work. For instance, Shen Yaoyi, a famous comic artist, spent six years drawing a series named The red ribbon on the earth, but he couldn't even afford to buy the comic series with the amount he was paid.

Even today the artists can only get 20 yuan a page, while he may get several thousand yuan for a traditional Chinese painting. Many artists have to seek other work.

There are valuable lessons to be drawn from the comic industry in Japan. Cartoon comics are very popular in Japan. Creating them is more of a business than it is here. The comic workhouses are usually in charge of the artwork. And they cooperate with toy businesses and advertising companies.

But in China the artists are much more passive. They just wait for a publisher to offer them work.



It is a sad fact that publishers mainly depend on adult collectors for their sales. According to Liu Yanjiang, chief editor of Comic Publisher, it is the biggest pity when books become "collectables".

The most important function of books is to be read. The market really needs to attract more children to read Chinese comics. It is true that the comics can be instructive and skillful, but they need to be more interesting and popular.

The artists need to fit the new circumstance. The old ones should befriend the young. And the young should learn from the old. After all, the profession also needs more excellent young people to participate.

Generally speaking, the situation is still not bright. But the publishers and artists must continue their work, because there are still many readers. They need to do something to attract more readers. As a worthwhile art form, the comic won't and shouldn't disappear.

Maybe the industry is in a slump at present, but it can reform and adapt to the new situation. People have many different alternatives after all.



Caricature by Lao Du



## Beauty Parlour for Animals

By Su Wei

Keeping pets has become increasingly popular in recent years. People raise all kinds of animals; fish, birds, cats and dogs, even monkeys. Along with this growing trend, is a rising demand for pet grooming services?

In a strict sense, a beauty shop in an animal hospital is not only limited to the service of hair cutting, combing and modelling for a dog or cat. The beauty service should also include providing pets clothes, and other relevant items.

At present, there are 20 to 30 animal hospitals in Beijing that have opened special 'animal beauty parlours', including the four registered governmental ones. However, there are no separate animal beauty parlours, because of a government regulation that such services cannot exist independently of an animal hospital. The one at the Beijing Pet Animal Hospital (BPEAH) is the largest. Beijing Wild Animal Protection Centre Animal Hospital (BWAPCAH) was the first to open a beauty parlour department, in 1997. The other two are Beijing Pet Hospital and the People's Liberation Army Hospital.

### Animal parlours run by private animal hospitals

The private animal hospitals are usually just one room facing the street and mainly deal with dogs or cats. The beauty services are limited to hair combing and manicuring.

Charges for beauty service at private animal hospitals are as high as 240 yuan and most of the equipment is not very advanced.

Furthermore, most of the beauticians working in such places are not qualified vets, and the beauticians in the private ones usually earn less than their counterparts in the registered ones.



A pet beautician in BWAPCAH is preparing an operation on a cat  
Photo by Su Wei

### A pet beautician

Dong Yangqing, a pet beautician at BWAPCAH with a monthly salary of no more than 2,000 yuan, has been in the industry for almost half a year.

She pointed out that it is necessary for a vet as well as a beautician to be able to communicate with others. "Through the communication we can continue to make progress in our skills and be better able to satisfy our customers."

She says she may participate in exchanges with experts in animal beauty in Hong Kong initiated by Wang.

### The first animal beauty parlor in Beijing

According to Wang Zengnian, Director of BWAPCAH, there are four beauticians at their hospital, all of whom are licensed veterinarians.

They teach themselves through reading books, magazines and getting information about the most popular models and advanced equipment overseas through the Internet. Wang consider it is good for them to be well capable of meeting the demands of their customers.

Most of the equipment, even the hair-clippers and nailbrushes, are imported, due to their superior quality. The total expense for the renewal of equipment is about 20,000 yuan per year, which amounts to 10% of the total annual turnover of the beauty service.

The fee charged by BWAPCAH is 80 to 120 yuan for a two-hour visit, which includes hair cutting, trimming, combing, manicuring and modelling.

Most of the 'clients' are brought in by young women aged between 20 and 30. "Some of them have

### Potential Market

Wang says the animal beauty market is very strong, due to the improvement in people's living standards.

"Most of the customers want their pets to look more beautiful, people feel a real pride about their pets appearance."

Wang points out the coming season is very popular for the animal parlour, with the result of the hurried opening of many private animal hospitals offering beauty services.

special requirements for their pet, while others prefer to listing to our suggestions."

Wang says sometimes the requirements of the customers are not reasonable and the beauticians may recommend making some adjustments to their set designs.

A few foreigners bring their pets in once or twice a year. Most of them work at embassies in Beijing. "Some of the vets in our hospital speak quite good English, so it is not difficult for us to communicate with the foreigners."



# Entering AIDS Village

- Recently the Chinese Public Health Ministry made a public announcement about the AIDS epidemic situation in Wenloucun, a village in Shangcai County in Henan province. To date, 241 people in the village have been confirmed to be infected with HIV, 101 of whom have developed full-blown AIDS.
- Why have so many people in this village contracted AIDS? How were they infected? How are they being treated?
- CCTV's News Probe made a further investigation into the tragedy at Wenloucun Village.

By Liu Jinmei

## Five years ago, a "mystery disease" attacked

Situated in the southeast of Henan province, Wenloucun village, Shangcai County, has a population of 800. Shangcai County is one of the country's most densely populated counties, and one of the poorest.

In 1996, a number of the villagers in Wenloucun came down with a "mystery disease" with flu-like symptoms; fever, sore throat, diarrhea and persistent fatigue.

One villager, Zhou Mei, spent over 10,000 yuan over a period of two years on medical treatment for these symptoms, but no hospital could tell her what exactly she was suffering from.

In 1999, several young villagers died of the "mystery disease", which attracted the attention of some government departments. The Epidemic Prevention Station of Shangcai County tested several blood samples for HIV and found that 6 tested positive for the virus. The villagers were informed that they were suffering from AIDS. Among them, Zhou Mei and her husband both tested positive for HIV.

Two months later, more than 100 other villagers underwent AIDS testing, and the results of this testing suggested that the number of HIV carriers was probably much larger than 6.

## Epidemic Transmission among Family Members

Zhou Mei, who had already been infected by the virus, gave birth to her third child in 2000.

Among five family members, four of them have been infected with HIV, Zhou Mei, her hus-



The youngest Aids patient in the village is less than one year old

Photos provided by photocom.com

band and two of her three children. Since she had no idea that AIDS is epidemic, the two children were infected during her pregnancy.

As the villagers were unaware that AIDS was transmitted from mother to unborn baby, still more AIDS babies were to be born.

According to statistics at the Ministry of Health in Henan province, since 1995, there have been 8 cases of death from the proved infection with AIDS, and another 22 cases of death with the virus at the first testing.

## Infection Stemming from Blood Sales

Wenloucun Village is on a plain. Villagers make a living by cultivating fields and selling vegetables so that their living is around middle-level among the 22 villages in Lugang Town. Why have so many villagers been infected with HIV?

According to Liu Xuezhou, vice director of the Henan Province Bureau of Health, the infections mainly stem from the sale of blood.

According to some Chinese

rules, manual collections for plasma must follow a certain operating procedure strictly because any negligence will possibly cause cross infections or epidemic transmission.

Sun Dongming, an HIV carrier in Wenloucun, does not know how many times he had sold his plasma, starting from 1987 in the People's hospital of Shangcai County till 1995. According to him, he sold three times one day and fainted another day.

Around 1995, blood collecting centers in Shangcai County suffered from non-standard operations and mismanagement. For example, dealers would reuse needles, mix blood products, and re-inject the blood after the plasma had been separated, thus passing on the HIV virus to other sellers.

On February 27, 1995, the Health Ministry of China urgently issued the Announcement on Strengthening Blood Management, to emphasize the importance of AIDS testing when taking and using blood.

According to local farmers, around 1995, they could earn around 40 yuan for 400 cubic centimeters (cc) of blood; but the middlemen, or "blood heads," bought farmers' blood and sold it to hospitals or blood banks for up to 100 yuan per cc.

"Driven by big profits, these 'blood heads' carry the centrifugal machine for plasma to the countryside, where they illegally take farmers' blood at homes or in the fields. In order to avoid the attention of the Department of Public Security and the Health Department, they carry out their transactions secretly. Some villagers in Wenloucun sold their blood five or six times a day. It is very dangerous to take blood without any testing, and this is the

major reason for the AIDS epidemic in Wenloucun." Liu Xuezhou said.

In 1992, in order to attack the "blood heads", the Health Bureau and the Public Security Bureau of Henan province jointly issued the Urgent Announcement on Attacking Blood Dealers.

90% of the HIV carriers in Wenloucun have sold their blood. It is the illegal blood taking and non-standard operations that caused the rapid transmission of HIV. There is a saying in the village, "Stretch your arm and roll up your sleeve, and then you can get 40 yuan." Selling blood has been considered by villagers a way of earning money. In order to build houses and increase the family's income, Zhou Mei's father-in-law also regularly sold his blood.

## Rescuing the "AIDS Village"

The epidemic situation in Wenloucun Village gradually attracted the attention of relevant government departments and even the State Council. Professional staff have been sent to investigate and carry out research on AIDS protection and treatment.

As most of the HIV carriers in Wenloucun Village are young, many families have lost their major source of manpower and are now finding it hard to make ends meet. According to sources in Shangcai County, flour and small amounts of cash have been granted to the worst hit families, and their children can finish 9 years' compulsory education free of charge.

As the relief work is strengthened, governments at different levels are starting to bear all, rather than part of the treatment fees for the HIV car-

riers. At present, all the HIV carriers in Wenloucun are receiving free treatment.

According to the Health Bureau of Henan province, the expenses for medicine, medical equipment and other items have exceeded 5 million yuan, a portion of this money was used to rebuild the village primary school.

This August, led by Vice Minister of Health Ying Dakui, experts from relevant departments and hospitals in Beijing formed a central working group on comprehensive AIDS' prevention and treatment. During their stay in Wenloucun, they offered free medical services, such as blood testing and diagnosing, prescribed medicine, made physical examinations and passed on knowledge on medical treatment to villagers.

According to the Health Bureau of Henan province, the country together with Henan province will take further vigorous measures to help the villagers control AIDS and improve their lives.

## Controlling and Preventing AIDS

Twenty years ago, AIDS was only a medical issue, but now it has developed into a social and economic issue all over the world.

Understanding of AIDS and finding ways of preventing and treating it have seen great progress. All countries now set higher requirements for blood security and are working to improve measures for blood testing.

In recent years, the Chinese government has passed many laws, and introduced various rules and policies to strengthen blood security management.

Henan province launched a comprehensive restructuring of

all the organizations involved in the taking and collecting of blood in 1996. Since then, over 100 blood stations in 18 cities of the province have been reduced to 23, all of which are used for free blood donation and for the purpose of clinical treatment.

According to the Health Bureau of Henan province, 110 tons of blood for clinical treatment, the annual demand in Henan province, can now be provided by blood donation. Standard blood stations, advanced equipment and strict testing standards guarantee blood security.

According to a statement from the Health Department of China on August 23, the actual number of HIV infections throughout the country till the end of 2000 was more than 600,000. According to some estimates, if aggressive action is taken, there will be 1.5 million HIV cases in China by 2010; if not, the figure could reach 10 million.

This May, the State Council ratified China's Five-year Plan for AIDS Control and Prevention, worked out jointly by 30 departments and units including the Health Department of China. This means China will take more active and efficient measures against AIDS.

According to the plan, at the end of 2005, the annual increase in the rate of AIDS sufferers will be under 10%; 75% of people in cities will be familiar with AIDS prevention and free blood donation; and the staff engaged in AIDS prevention and protection, clinical treatment, testing and examination, blood taking and supplying will all be professionally trained.

**Note: All the names included in this article are aliases.**



Though unfortunate the villagers infected with AIDS, their love for life remains





By Michael Reynolds

In a deserted bar located in a seedy part of northwest Beijing, a lanky boy with poka-dot hair resembling a cheetah takes the stage. The sparse group of twenty people watching is divided into two groups... the first being clean-cut business types dismayed at having their beloved soccer match turned off and the other half resembling a pack of wild animals decked out in leather, tattoos and cropped hair. Mark waits with the latter, poised with his Minolta SLR camera, ready to take shots of the band "Brain Failure" - his friends among Beijing's struggling punk scene.



# Punk in Eternal Present of Rebellion

"I'm old school tonight," says Mark at 25 years old, "I've got my dog collar on." Meanwhile, Brain Failure unleashes a deafening wall of noise that hastens the unsuspecting out the door.

## Beijing Punk Rocker

Referring to the now defunct band "The Beijing Cookies," Mark is not only a photographer but bassist as well. An eccentric punk with a giant chip on his shoulder, Mark hopes that he and his best friend, Norman (a fellow Beijinger and only remaining band mate), can find a drummer and guitar player to reform the group. Not unlike Beijing's punk scene itself, the band has never managed to get up on its feet. "Our former drummer and guitarist took off after they got into a fist fight." However, it was not before the Beijing Cookies successfully completed an eight-minute demo tape of seven songs. "We really need two other musicians to complete the group," laments Mark.

Music of this kind closely follows the spirit of rebellious youth... fast, furious and short lived. "Being a punk is about turning the standard of everything upside down... it's a state of mind," claims Mark. In the capital of China, he and his friends may be destined to always be on the fringe of society.

"We don't think it's art or anything and we don't really care how it comes across," Mark explains. "I never practice playing bass." The music is not as much about skill as it is energy... just the right kind to completely alienate most listeners. Or as Mark's friend, Xiu Rong (lead singer of Brain Failure), says... "We're just living and having fun."

Yet, problems abound due to this lifestyle. "My older sister thinks punk is shit," Mark relates. "Sometimes I go outside and people cuss me out... even when I'm not wearing red shoelaces in my boots or anything to indicate that I'm a punk." Perhaps the constant sneer on his face gives it away. It's no surprise that to many people the word "punk" is synonymous with "hoodlum".

It seems Mark's difficulties don't end there. Very few people among his group of friends have a girlfriend. "There are almost no punk girls in Beijing," claims Norman, whose girlfriend is not a punk. "There's only one band of girls in Beijing that I know of," adds Mark. "And they suck," Norman moans... "they're only popular because they're all girls."

## A Day In The Life

In Mark's fledgling days of high school, some seven years ago, his friend Norman came across a cassette tape of Nirvana's album Never mind and the two had their first taste of something really different. "I immediately liked the crazy, hard sound," recalls Mark, "but it wasn't until I discovered The Sex Pistols that I found what I was looking for." With songs like "Anarchy in the U.K.," "EMI" and "God Save the Queen", The Sex Pistols are still Mark's

favorite band. Before long, Mark was playing bass without really considering himself a musician. "It was during college when I was studying media photography that Norman and I started to really get into punk music," he explains.

It must have been around that time that Mark learned the secrets of making a good Mohawk. "We don't use gel in our hair, we use an egg to make it stand up straight... it's cheaper," laughs Mark. While some may think Mark and his friends of Beijing punks are crazy, he says that his friends in Wuhan, the capital city of central China's Hubei province, are much more interesting. "They take off all their clothes and run down the street



until the police come. They beat people up too, but don't worry... they don't do it to foreigners," Mark chuckles. Apparently a peaceful person, Mark explains that the Wuhan punks only did that when people would curse them for just being themselves. He maintains that "punks are not criminals... everybody is just the same really."

Since finishing college Mark has taken to accepting the odd freelance photo job here and there when he would rather be listening to music, playing it or best of all, "drinking beer." Mark claims that "the photo jobs are usually for computer companies and business meetings which are totally boring. I just want to photograph punk rockers!" While some may say that punks are a useless menace, Norman - the other Beijing Cookie, disagrees. "I've got a job," he says... "I work in a company. But Mark only made



- ① Mark drinking outside a rehearsal studio
- ② Sporting a Mohawk in a self-portrait
- ③ Members of Brain Failure
- ④ Mark and Norman (seated) talk punk with a friend
- ⑤ Brain Failure performing in Beijing

Photo By Michael Reynolds



3,000 RMB [U.S.\$ 275] last year." With that, Mark laughs. "Yeah, I have to admit it has been a really long time since I saw 2000 RMB," he sighs.

## No Future

On a day when Mark isn't working, which is usually the case, he spends his time hanging out at Brain Failure's makeshift rehearsal studio near the Xizhi-men subway station in western Beijing. Graffiti lines

the alley outside as music blares through the padded walls. Inside, empty beer bottles litter the floor of a room covered in music posters. "The neighbors really hate us," warns Mark. "If they play until eight o'clock at night, the police will come and kick everyone out... they've done it before."

Indeed, perhaps the biggest problem facing Beijing's punk music scene is that there are no venues catering to that kind of music. "The situation isn't as good as it once was," claims Norman. "That's right," adds Mark, "there used to be two or three punk bars like the Scream Club, but they closed down." In spite of that, a few bands in Beijing have

managed to survive enough to make a wide range of music of their own.

At a recent concert near the Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital, in Beijing's eastern Chaoyang District, there was a lineup of three punk bands from Beijing and two from Wuhan. Unfortunately, the first band (Brain Failure) had only played about two minutes of their first song when the concert was shut down. "It was a big let down when the police came," Mark sighs. "Apparently all bands need a license to have a concert, in addition to the bars. Of course, none of us have such a thing." No one was fined but everyone was sent home. The scarcity of punk rock concerts in Beijing make it difficult for the music to be exposed to a general audience.

Beijing's good punk music consists of just four or five bands, according to Mark. "There's Brain Failure (old school), Reflector (ska), Unfilial Son (hardcore) and, of course, The Beijing Cookies," he explains. How could a type of music that is supposed to be everlastingly progressive have an old school? "It is a contradiction," admits Mark, "but punk music is not twenty-something years old in China. It's happening now because music here is like it was in the west during the seventies. How else could you explain the popularity of the Carpenters nowadays?"

Mark's friend Xiu Rong paints a brighter picture... "punk is not dead, it's just changed. There's plenty of punk music in Beijing." Perhaps it's gaining popularity as well. Reflector just did a six-week tour of California and Seattle. On their return, Reflector's guitar player, Wang Jian, remarked, "there are so many great punk bands in California and all over America. It's just the food is so terrible over there." Mark and his friends discussed with awe the famous venues in America that inspire them to go on relatively unnoticed in Beijing. Yet, some have cause to celebrate. Brain Failure is currently on tour in Shenzhen and has been signed to the same local record label as Reflector- Scream Records. Mark and Norman hope that this could happen for the Beijing Cookies as well.

Faced with the problem of growing old as a punk rocker, Mark points to his idol Iggy Pop who is well into his forties. "Besides," says Mark, "like Johnny Rotten, lead singer of the Sex Pistols, said, 'there's no future'." "No Future..."





A Bowl used in the Birthday Feast



A Table Plaque as Birthday Gift



A Gourd-Shaped Pot as Birthday Gift

## Exquisite Relics Hold Everlasting Prosperity



Portrait of Qian Long, the Emperor

Photos by Jackey

By Shi Xinyu

In 1790, Qian Long (1711-1799), one of the greatest emperors of the Qing Dynasty, held a grand ceremony to celebrate his eightieth birthday. After more than 200 years, from September 25 to mid-December, 280 items used in the original ceremony are on exhibition in the Classic Celebration of China at the China Millennium Monument.

It is the first time for these high-valued cultural relics to be exhibited publicly in China. The displayed items were carefully selected from the collections stored in the Palace Museum of the Forbidden City. The exhibits are presented under the following four themes: receiving greetings, bestowing rewards, the

birthday feast and birthday gifts. The exhibition as a whole allows visitors to form a clear picture of how the emperor celebrated his birthday.

A huge chair made of carved lacquer-ware, accompanied by Chinese traditional auspicious decorations like white cranes and elephants, depicts scenes of the emperor receiving greetings. Writing brushes and ink-stones, silks and satins, baskets containing fruits or food were used as rewards from emperors. Among the objects displayed under the theme of birthday feast, a set of tableware including bowls, dishes and cups made in cloisonné, is unique in that each piece displays the Chinese characters 万寿无疆 meaning boundless longevity.

Most birthday gifts are exquisite, valuable handicrafts, such as Ruyi, a kind of scepter usually made of wood or jade used as a symbol of Buddha; Penjing, potted miniature trees and rockery; table plaques; and embroidery. Many propitious signs linger in the designs and shapes of those handicrafts: the bat symbolizes good fortune; the peach means longevity; the gourd implies everlasting life. Those signs are still used today in some celebrations to express people's expectations for a brighter future.

From historical records people know the original ceremony was held in a relatively prosperous period in the Qing Dynasty. And now, two centuries later, this prosperity can still be truly sensed in the exhibition.

## A Hundred Years of Chinese Painting



Sheeping on Tibetan Highland

By Wu Zuoren

By Wang Baoling

The Hundred-year Exhibition of Chinese Painting, which aims at reviewing the development of Chinese painting in the past century, will be held from September 30 to October 21 after a year of preparation.

"The Hundred-year Exhibition of Chinese Painting, which is sponsored by the Chinese Artist Association, China Art Museum and the Academy of Chinese Painting will become the monument to Chinese painting in the past 100 years," said Wang Lan, director of the exhibition department of the China Art Museum.

According to the Exhibition Committee, 551 art works from different periods over the past century will trace the story of Chinese Painting from a historical point of view. Generally, there are three major stages in Chinese painting in the 20th century: the traditional style, combinations of western and eastern styles, and a style which places the essence of western style into the eastern one.

The landscape painting, "Willow in the Wind", by Qi Baihi in 1957 and "Dewdrop" by Pan

Tianshou in 1958 represent the traditional style of the first category. Xu Beihong's figure painting, "Like the Foolish Old Man who removed the mountains with dogged perseverance", comes into

the second category. "Su Wu Graze" by Fu Baoshi in 1944 represents the third category in the exhibition. In addition, visitors can also enjoy some works of the great master of Chinese painting, Zhang Daqing, as well as some pieces of recent years, such as "The People and Premier Zhou" by Zhou Sicong in 1979, and "Dance with the Sea" by Quo Yizong in 1996. Moreover, 281 rarities provided mainly by the China Art Museum, Chinese Revolutionary Museum and Chinese History Museum will be on show.



Willow in The Wind

By Qi Baishi

"This exhibition displays the largest number of works of famous painters, and is of the highest academic standard," said Ms Yu, an art specialist at the China Art Museum. It is hoped visitors will be able to learn about Chinese painting in the 20th Century while feasting their eyes.

Photoes provided by Exhibition Committee

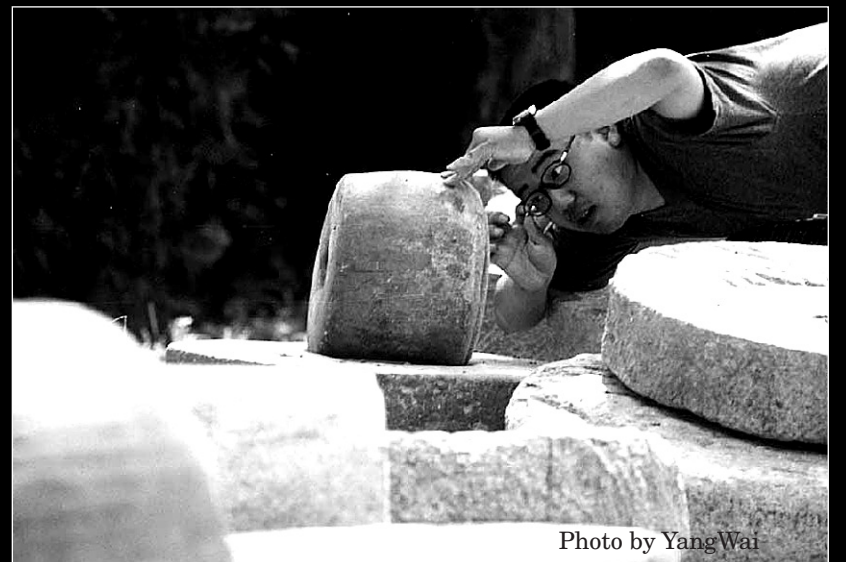


Photo by Yang Wai

## Call up for Stonerollers And Millstones

By Shi Xinyu

The Museum of Chinese Agriculture is asking Beijingers to donate any traditional farming implements and items with special era-marks branded anytime from the 1940s to 1980s. So far about 550 pieces have been gathered.

"These things are worth nothing

if I keep them at home, but they may be highly valuable to the museum," said Mr. Xu Shaochang, a 66-year-old farmer who contributed 353 items like certificates, booklets, and official documents. "This is one of the most important donations we have received." remarked a member of the staff at the museum.





Picture by Fu Bingyu

## Rose in the Wind

By *Rose in the Wind*

Do you know I have been waiting for you? If you really care about me, why do you keep the rose trembling in the wind?

That was an early spring afternoon, I, like a tramp, picked up my luggage and came to Guangzhou Airport. Sitting in a corner of the hall, I watched people coming and going, but just could not see you show up. You said you would come to see me off, you swore you would love me until I stop loving you. However...

As I got on the plane, I could no longer prevent a string of yearning tears from sliding down.

Back in Beijing, I collapsed, for the whole month. One day, you entrusted a friend of yours to bring a rose to me, but my heart had died away. The rose I return to you! A year later, I returned to Guangzhou. When we had a chance again to sit down and had a heart-to-heart talk, my love was still as strong as ever, only that I would not let you know. We got acquainted in a time we should not, and being able to know you and fall in love with you is the luckiest thing in my life. I can understand you, just as I can understand myself. Do you still remember what I said to you "The passion held in hand will be reduced to ashes at once, but that, hidden at the bottom of the heart, will endure and remain fresh forever." Just let you be the King in my heart, I never wish anyone can drive you away.

Today, it snowed in Beijing, and in the vast expanse of whiteness, I made a snowman, the more I saw it, the more it was like you, I could not help laughing out...

Fate once launched a huge attack on me when I had no preparation at all...

But I spelled out everything from your eyes one year later. We have not said anything since then.

The charming rose once offered a warm current across a frozen heart, and let her feel warm; at least, the nice rose once added a little bright color to a dismal life. I have stepped onto a road of non-return in love, but, with the rose you sent to accompany me on my road, why should I worry about loneliness? Enough!

Though I did not accept your rose, my heart has accepted it! In the unseen world, I seemed to have heard something you said to me... Then I stood up with a laugh. From then on the rose has been in blossom in my heart, sending off fragrance in my dream. For the whole year, we lived far apart from each other, no message from each other at all. That lovesickness often tortured me to death!

One year later, I came back to Guangzhou, and the unusual nonchalance between us was sensed by our sensitive friends, who set a trap for us. We met again at a karaoke hall. Our acting was so marvelous that no one could guess any emotional involvement between you and me. You clinked glasses with me in a smile, and melancholy flickered across your eyes, but it was noticed by me, unluckily. I smiled, too, really, lowered my head and smiled lightly...

Do you want to let me wonder how to hate you?

On such a snowy, northern night, I will remain awake again. Faraway how are you?

(Abstract)

# True Love Floats On Internet Waves



Photo by Zhuang Jian

"At the very start, you promised to me,  
Between us, even a touch of the hand would not occur.  
At first, I thought I could.  
But I found I couldn't when you dated me again..."

Yes, to this day, I have understood,  
I cannot, either...

No matter how we were before,  
No matter how we will be later,  
I only know my heart stays here forever,  
This moment of beauty,  
Has been firmly locked in my mind.

Its name came originally from a line in a pop song. It told of a true love story of a young girl. It was only a series of postings on the BBS of www.qz.fj.cn, without any hope of being published before April 2001. While today, tears of over 40,000 readers have poured over a shrine to purity under the name of *Rose in the Wind*, and hearts have been moved by the writer Rose in the Wind.

A girl, known only as Rose in the Wind, fell in love with a married man years ago in Guangdong province, south China. They agreed not to touch each other, not even on the hand, in order to keep a pure love. Finding it too hard to stick to such an agreement, the man refused to meet Rose in the Wind. In the face of desire, the will sometimes proves to be soft. He was afraid further meeting would hurt Rose in the Wind. She headed for Beijing with a pieced heart. The posting that stirred up the web world appeared in 2000. Piece to piece, line after line, the cyber world was drowned in

bitter tears.

"The value of this novel results in its purity not only of words, but also original intention," commented Tang Min, agent of Rose in the Wind and a professional writer. "Rose in the Wind had no intention to publish her works. She just hopes he can read it," said Tang Min. "Such a pure feeling in a concrete urban environment moved readers just like *The Bridges of Madison County* did." *Rose in the Wind* was one of the hottest postings in 2000 and thousands of readers added their words to the tales of the girl's heart wrenching days.

In 2001, China's top publishing house, The People's Literature Publishing House, launched her into cyber literature. *Rose in the Wind* burst onto the literary scene, causing sensation and basking in glowing reviews. The girl has always remained beautiful behind the delicate poetry of a name, always shying away from public view, always suspending her moving love story through the airwaves.

(Xiao Xia)

## Tailpiece

By *Rose in the Wind*

The first posting was put onto the Internet. The web world was silent, without answer.

I gave myself a name on the Internet, "Rose in the Wind", although I had never written articles before.

Actually, the posting was not written for others to read, I just hoped to find a pair of eyes in the ocean-like Internet, which could read it. I wrote for him.

Afterwards, unexpectedly, I wrote for ten months in succession. My postings were about to become a book, and my "writing" became "literary creation", which is very unusual for me, but still I have to give opinions on "literature", thus, I wrote the following words:

Shortly after the New Year of the millennium, Rose went into the chatting BBS, hoping to write something, but not knowing how to start.

A net friend asked Rose: "Often hear you say you want to write something, but why do I not see your poster?"

Rose always said shyly: "No inspiration. I don't know what to write, wait a while."

Thus, I wandered on the BBS for many days. That day, accidentally, I saw a net friend's poster about seeing someone off at the airport, very touching in deed. Rose sighed with deep feelings, and could not help thinking up an unforgettable story of the remote past, then, unable to control her feelings, she wrote her first posting, "Rose in the Wind..." and put it up at once.

At first, Rose did not imagine that she would make the story into a serial novel and keep it going, however, her net friends always gave support to her, encouraging her to work on, thus, the story was uncoiled slowly like a volume of book. In the hard course of writing, Rose went through countless winds and rains. The comments from net friends contained both praise and blame. The poster became over-loaded and she had to open new ones... Such an idea as "Stop and give up" also occurred to her. But now she has overcome all those obstacles. She has been writing for more than half a year, which is quite an unexpected turnaround for her.

Of course, those words are gobbledygook on the whole. As a matter of fact, it was for him that she started to write. She hoped that he would read the heart of Rose silently, in the distance. What she was not aware of is that the book has become the public property of many net friends.

Such an outcome seems to be more to my taste.



# The Tears Of Marco Polo Fall on Deaf Ears

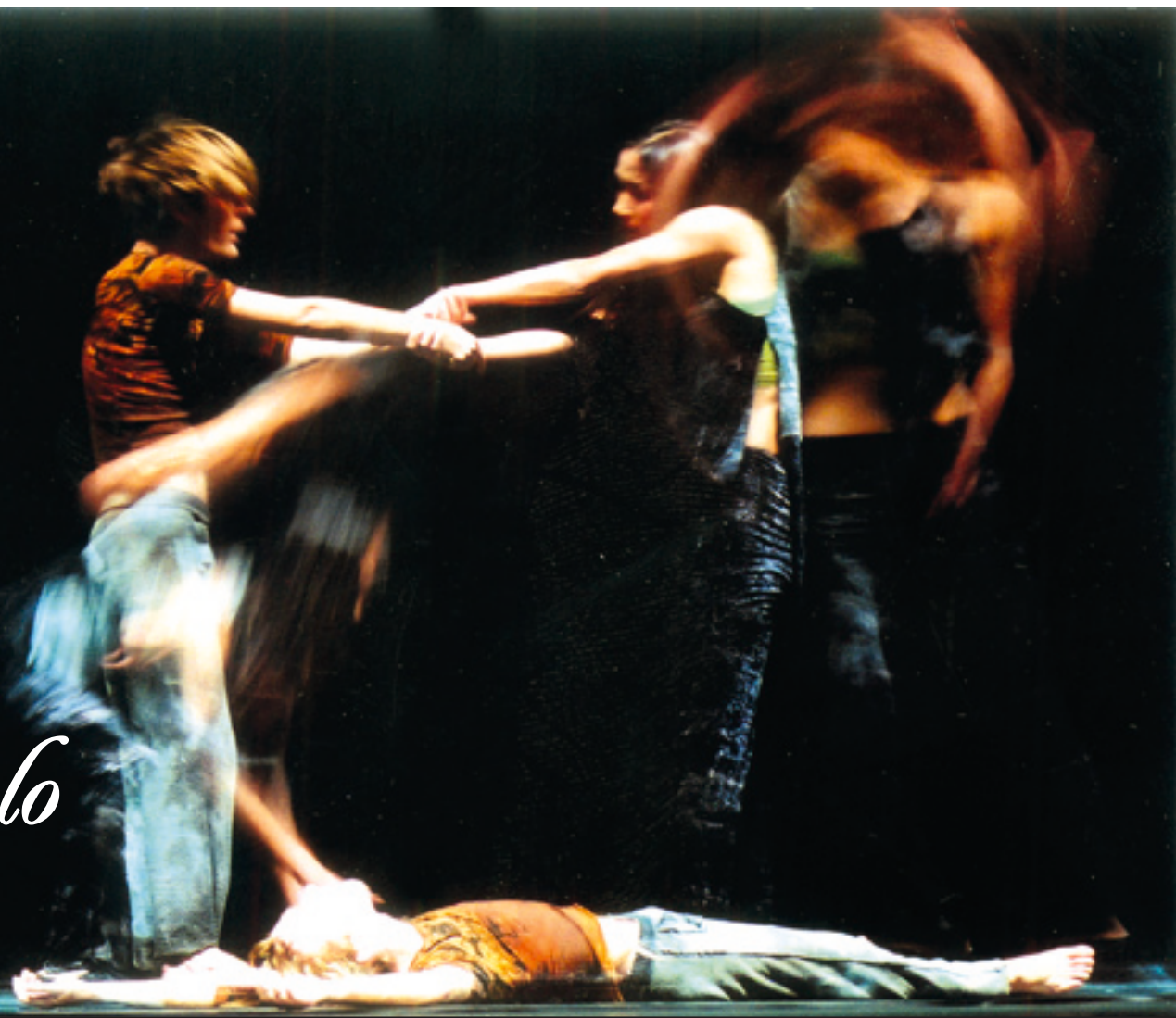


Photo by Cui Jun

By Zhu Lin

Jean-Claude Gallotta-Groupe Emile Buboïs, the French modern dance company shed "Les Larmes de Marco Polo (the Tears of Marco Polo)", the postmodern dance drama in Beijing. Although the company has toured twenty-three countries and was regarded as world-leading, the audience kept on leaving during the performance on September 29 at the Beijing Century Theatre.

The drama reveals Marco Polo's legendary life in his dream. A group

of pioneers set off from Europe towards the rising sun and returned 25 years later, after touching the tree which marked the limits of the known world. Old Marco Polo is perpetually sleep walking. Confused people from his past life appear on the stage in tumult. The composer is Chinese musician Xu Shuya, but that fact doesn't in any way bring the drama any closer to the audience. The discordant harmonies only further alienated them.

"The drama is one of the most

experimental dancing works in the world. It's very abstract," commented Ou Jianping, a renowned dance critic in China. He explains that kind of work is not to be understood literally, but should light up people's inspiration and imagination. At the very beginning and end of the performance, Marco Polo is carried in the same person's arms. Life's tragic and comical distinction interacted right at these moments. Everybody can spring off from his or her own imagination.

According to Ou, the drama can present international standards of modern dance. The problem is, however, international modern dancers are not invited to stage very often in China, and Chinese audiences aren't accustomed to modern dance, let alone experimental works like "The Tears of Marco Polo". When it suddenly appears on stage, audiences are shocked since their regular fodder are works like "Swan Lake". Modern dance needs to be given more stage in Beijing.

By Xiao Xia / Zhu Lin

The Great Hall of the People, the shrine of all stages in China, witnessed the debut of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber on September 27 and 28. This musical gala under the name of "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" stirred up a frenzy of activity among the local media, as well as kindling the ambition of Sir Webber himself.

"Hopefully, we'll bring a complete musical onto Beijing's stage next year." Following the claim of Sir Webber, a wave of applause welcomed the age of the musical in China. Although the 16,000 tickets of the two days' show were almost sold out, the local market will not provide a license for money-printing to musicals as Broadway did.

"I've never heard of a musical being sponsored in Broadway," said Luoyong Wang, a Chinese actor famous in Broadway, answering the question as to whether Beijing musicals would come under sponsorship rather than commercial investment. According to Wang, the fantastic dreamland of musicals is definitely based on large amounts of investment.

"The Phantom of the Opera" cost \$9 million when it premiered in Broadway in 1987. A sponsor company only with advertisement payback can never provide such a huge sum of money. Without a mature commerce channel, the quality of the musical as well as its season has to be sacrificed. No one could believe that a musical put together with sponsorship alone would be staged for years, nor that a two or three days' show would make musicals into a local industry like Broadway.

Broadway provides a steady audience for "Miss Saigon", since the Americans localized a story from the other side of the world by turning it into a tourism project. "Cats" drew a box-office income of \$1.6 billion, with "Miss Saigon" taking \$1.2 million.

Faced with such an exotic spectacle, Chinese audiences can hardly keep their enthusiasm in. The Japanese "Four Season Theatre", the best musical troupe in Asia, brought "Beauty and Beast" to China in 1999 and planned to make 100 performances in Beijing.

After 60 shows however, it couldn't go on. "Those who wanted to watch had already been once," said Jiang Li, director and writer, and witness of that event, "and those who were not interested would never go." Japan is more Westernized than China, so no doubt "Four Season Theatre" failed somewhat here.

In 1995, the first group of students graduated from the Department of Musicals in China Central Drama Institute. They performed "West Side Story", a classical Broadway musical in Beijing. "They failed

## Webber Arrives, Local Musicals Miles Away



obviously. The story can't evoke the interest of a Chinese audience," recalled Zheng.

According to Jiang, Chinese people prefer a story to singing and dancing. "I think it'll take a long time before Chinese audiences get accustomed to the musical's art form," said Zheng Dongtian, one of the leading Chinese directors, "We Chinese people prefer more realistic art forms."

No matter what, Sir Webber has successfully drawn the attention of the Chinese. His confidence in musicals in China has also provided an optimistic view. Nevertheless, without proper commercialization and localization, the prosperous musical industry is still a long way from China. However close we are now sitting to Sir Webber, a local musical tradition remains a distant prospect.

Photo by Cui Jun

## Chinese Magic Flower Blossoms In English

By Shi Xinyu

About five hundred foreigners living in Beijing showed great interest on September 26 in the English version of "Ma Lan Flower", the most popular music play for children in China. The play was staged from October 2 to 4 in both Chinese and English at the China Children Arts Theater.

Greedy Old Cat wants to get Ma Lan Flower, spirit of the mountain. He persuades Da Lan to kill her twin sister Xiao Lan who is married to Ma Lan, holder of the magic flower. Finally, Old Cat is defeated. Xiao Lan comes back to life and Ma Lan Flower is returned to Ma Lan. The play has been staged four times ever since its debut in 1956. A performance in both Chinese and English made 2001 a milestone in the history of the China Children's Arts Theater.

The foreign audience' warm feedback on September 26 proved the huge success of the play. "The show is magnificent. I am deeply surprised!" commented Erina Velizhko, a mom with 2 kids, "my children like it very much because the play also got them involved." "Everyone is the best, I love them all!" declared a little Estonian girl called Lili.

The success is a fruit of the painstaking efforts of the staff. According to director Liu Xiaoming, the average age of the staff is 40, and nearly 90% of the actors and actresses learnt English from ABC last August when rehearsals started. "It seemed like impossible," added Hu Chunlu, English professor from Beijing University who tutors the actors English.

Encouraged by the success of "Ma Lan Flower", Ouyang Yibing, producer of the musical says they plan to perform original classic English children's story like "Alice in Wonderland" in China next year.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Avant-garde Movies Debut in Beijing

By Shi Xinyu

"Lunar Eclipse", a Chinese independent movie, opened the Avant-garde Film Project operated by Beijing Forbidden City & Trinity Pictures Co. Ltd on October 4th at Dahua Cinema.

According to the schedule of the A-G Film Project, an avant-garde movie will be shown on every Wednesday morning at the cinema of Xindong'an Shopping Center and every Thursday at Dahua Cinema. The candidate films will be "Postmen of the Mountains", "The Cider House Rules" and "Music of the Heart".

"The movies shown in the project are not for entertaining all kinds of audience," emphasized Li Zhe, executive of A-G film project, "We just focus on the group of people who appreciate something sharp, sensitive, different and original." According to Li, most of those people seldom go to the cinema because popular films hold no interest for them. They feel there is no big difference between cinema and TV. "We have confidence that our A-G films can make cinemas much more attractive than before," he assured.

Actually it is too early to tell whether the A-G Film Project will be successful commercially. VCDs and DVDs of all kinds of movies are everywhere on the market, and the cinema has to compete with them, winning the audience. But it is at least a worthwhile attempt to provide an art style to its relative audience. "If the box record is good, we'll think about holding activities like symposiums and seminars," added Li.



Picture from "Lunar Eclipse"

Photo provided by Li Zhe

## Chinese Modern Art Reviewed In Guangzhou

By Wang Baoling

Modern art has undergone decades of development in China, but seldom gets academically reviewed and reflected upon. The First Guangzhou Triennial to be held in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province, in November 2002, is supposed to fill up that gap. The exhibition features three basic sections "Memory and Reality", "Human and Environment" and "Localization and Globalization" aiming at displaying the experimental works and artistic phenomena of the last 20 years.

Ten to Fifteen contemporary artists will be invited to create new experimental works in order to represent the characteristics of Chinese modern experimental art. Another academic activity, named "Place and Model" will be additionally held during the First Guangzhou Triennial.

All of the above activities demonstrate that Chinese modern art history has come to an important turning point.





# Huxi's Studio for Pet Clothes

By Lydia

19-year-old Huxi is very different from the girls of her age, most of whom are interested mainly in dressing themselves up. Her favorite pastime is making clothes for her 9-year-old golden pure-bred French dog "Mimi".

Located among the Hutongs south of Sogo department store in Xuanwu District, Huxi's pet clothes studio is also her home. In the front hall of the house, there are many cute and brightly colored dog clothes hanging on the clothes stand, from princess dress, Christmas dress, fair maiden dress to Chinese traditional style. "These are all Mimi's clothes from babyhood till now," says Huxi proudly. One day when Mimi was very young, Huxi took her out for a walk. She wanted to dress Mimi in beautiful clothes and searched many pet clothes stores. Finally, unable to find something suitable, she decided to make some clothes herself. Huxi has since studied some clothes designing and cutting out skills. Now there are more and more pretty garments in lucky Mimi's cabinet. Each time she is taken out for walk in her new dress, she attracts many people's attention and admiration.

As people came to know about Huxi's dog clothes making, more and more came to her home to buy pet clothes, and a year ago, Huxi established her own studio. She has gained quite a reputation among pet lovers, and her Mimi won the championship of the 1st Beijing International Canine Exhibition in one of her garments.

Huxi says she studied both clothes making and stage art, so she can combine her design skills to create various dramatic effects, both western and oriental style. Now she has made more than 1,000 pet garments for her customers and has many pet clients around Beijing. "Mimi is my favorite model and inspiration," says Huxi, patting the dog in her arms.

**Add:** 11 Mianhuajutiao (棉花九条), Xuanwu District, subway to Xuanwumen, walk south of Sogo for about 10 minutes.

**Price:** pet clothes ranges from 20 yuan - several hundred yuan

**Tel:** 63176698/13621192375.

**Attention:** Huxi's pets clothes will be shown at the 2nd Beijing International Canis Exhibition on Oct. 4, 9am-11am, at Changping Bicycle Sports Field.



Provided by Hu Xi

# ClubFootball Bar

By Lydia

This is a newly opened bar, just two months old. If you are a football fan, you should definitely check it out. Sponsored by Adidas and Beijing TV Station, Beijing Wangguo Qunxing FC is China's first joint-venture football club company. Aside from its club website and full size grass pitch, this ClubFootball Bar and Restaurant has become something of a community center for amateur footballers.

There's no sign in front of the bar, unless a large spherical light atop the entrance gives a clue that something big is about to happen here! Inside you can find football memorabilia signed by some of the biggest names in the football world. They are all framed and hang over the bar, such as shirts of this year's winning Liverpool team signed by Owen, Gerrard, Houllier and other players. The most unbelievable souvenir shirt is one of Zinedine Zidane's shirts, signed by the man himself!

The bar is designed and decorated in a traditional British pub style, with wooden tables, chairs and ceiling, and stone floor. It has a very homely and cozy atmosphere. On the walls are photos of some amateur Beijing teams, adding to the feeling that the bar is both a football museum and a home to football fans. In the front bar there's a big TV screen on which professional matches from China, Italy, England and Germany are shown, either live or replays. You can also have fun in the back bar, playing table football, billiards, pool or darts.

So are you passionate about football? Just come and sit down, sample the genuine western menu and immerse yourself in a world of football, because from now until the end of summer 2002, we will be melted into a crazy footballing world!

**Add:** No. 10 Taipingzhuang (太平庄), near Red House Hotel, Chunxiulu (春秀路), Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 11am till late.

**Tel:** 64150988/64167786.

# Chinese Folk Artifacts from Yunnan to Beijing

By Priscilla

In a prosperous city like Beijing, it's hard to find genuine examples of folk art by minority nationalities. "Primitive Tribe" is a small shop specializing in arts and crafts by minority people from Yunnan Province and central China.

Situated in Laitai Flower Street, the shop opened on September 8. The products it displays can be divided into two categories according to the areas from which they originate; or three categories, according to the product types.

He Xianglong, He Chunli and two other artists from Lijiang, Yunnan Province have gained one silver medal and three excellent prizes in the China Folk Crafts Exposition 2001. Their Dongba culture combines Taoism and with other religions. The Dongba people use a kind of pictograph writing, the only such writing still practiced in the world today. The patterns that are featured in their handicrafts include numerous gods; such as the War God, Frog God, Gate God and Tree God. The materials are all natural; wood, metal and earth. The colorful and bright heavy-colored woodprints are very attractive, and will make a distinctive decoration in any house.

Those four folk artists are proud of their culture and hope it will be recognized by more and more people. The shop owner's plan to invite more folk artists to come out of their villages and show their splendid art to modern society and also the whole world. She also plans to hold some small exhibitions in the future.

**Add:** 7 Laitai Flower Street (Laitai Huajie 莱太花街), Maizidianxi (麦子店西), opposite Mu Ma Ren Bar, at the east side of the road, Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 10am-7: 30pm.

**Tel:** 84518929.

By Priscilla

Nowadays, people want to be out of the ordinary in the way they dress up. Jewelry can be found everywhere, however, it's no easy matter to find distinctive and good quality jewelry at affordable prices. Silver Point, a shop specializing in silver ornaments, is well worth patronizing.

Situated in the southern end of Dongsidajie, Silver Point has been opened for around six years. The shop is small, just about 10 square meters; but what it lacks in size, it makes up for in decor. The walls are painted light purple and tens of artificial silver stones hang from the ceiling. Glass cabinets containing silver ornaments stand on either side of the room. All the goods on sale comply with the 924 interna-

# UNIQUE SILVER POINT

tional standard for silverware. Most are imported from the U.S. and some come from Italy. Every piece is unique, according to the shop owner. There are earrings, necklaces, rings, bracelets. The prices range from tens of yuan, to over one thousand, depending on the size and style. There are modern and "retro" styles, something for every different taste. According to the owner of the shop, the customers are mainly artists, designers, actors, journalists and college students, who are looking for something different. The famous movie star Tao Hong wore a bracelet and necklace from Silver Point when she was photographed for Ray mag-

azine (a magazine focusing on clothes and jewelry for women).

The shop owner and her mother are experienced in selecting and matching ornaments and are happy to assist in choosing something that will suit you. I believe you will be satisfied with the result.

**Add:** 55 Dongsidajie, 100 m south of Sanyou Department Store (三友商场).

**Open:** 11:30am-9pm.

**Tel:** 65249482.



# Classical Family Art

By Priscilla

Around Beijing, many shops are specializing in ancient furniture in the style of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Beijing Liulichang Cultural Development Company Classical family art is one such newly founded company.

Various goods, including ancient style furniture and paintings are displayed as if in a family home. The artistic achievement of Chinese classical furniture and adornment represents an extraordinary combination of the intelligence and high artistic accomplishment of ancient artists and craftsmen. The shop engages in naturally mixing the household goods, paintings and tea art. The shop sells both genuine antiques and replicas. The replicas are made strictly in accordance with the original designs, while given some new

modern functions. In fact, ancient style furniture has great development potential, having passed the test of hundreds of years of use, and is widely accepted.

The craftsmen are all professionals and the prices depend on the size and materials used, generally around a few thousand yuan, if the article is not very big.

All their products carry a one-year unconditional guarantee, and can be returned within one week, if the customer is not satisfied for any reason. They can also arrange to have goods shipped overseas on behalf of customers.

**Add:** Jiaheliyuan Reception Center, Maizidianlu (麦子店路), Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 9:30am-8pm.

**Tel:** 64673221/2/3, 13601388187.

Photos by Chen Shuyi





Agglomerated with the wisdom of the world's best experts, the plan of Beijing CBD finally unveils itself. The sponsors and organizers—the organizing committee of the Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival, CBD Construction and Management Office and the Soufun Information Company held the “Beijing CBD Planning and constructing Summit Forum” from Sept. 20th to 21st, during the

Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival when Chinese and foreign companies, elite and talents for various fields gathered here.

With the two themes of the forum plan and construction, governmental officials was invited who are directly engaged in the CBD planning and construction work, planners, famous architects, CBD researchers, “heavy weight” investors and

developers from home and abroad. They elaborated on several focused issues. This forum became a pageant in concluding and further probing into the question of CBD planning and construction. For the following editions, reporter from Beijing Today will make relevant forum introductions. Following are the summary of Qiu Shuiping, deputy director of Chaoyang District.

# Orientation of Beijing's CBD

By Wang Dandan

There are three important aspects when considering the target of the CBD: in terms of the construction in the capital, Beijing CBD should be the modern district representing the future of the city. Within the district, basic construction will differ greatly from other places in Beijing, such as building heights. Buildings there will be taller than in other areas, and their capacity will be greater. At the same time, the district also preserves some traditional style parks. The district will be a top-level tourist attraction, combining past and present. This is for the city construction aspect.

In terms of economy, there are several layers: the gathering of



Photo by Wang Jing

international groups will provide more opportunities to Beijing city and its citizens. In relation to this, 5 million sq.m. of office buildings will be constructed to meet the de-

mand.

In terms of living, Beijing CBD will be an international standard 24-hour district. Development of facilities such as Sanlitun Bar

Street, the Silk Market and Panjiayuan Flea Market all aid in reaching this target. There are also many apartment complexes planned or already under construction, accounting for 25% of the total construction.

Generally speaking, the specialties of Beijing CBD lie in the internationalization of the district and the cultural and living atmosphere, rather than development of a purely commercial district. 15% of the total area will be covered with parks and green areas, and the concentration of information, which the government will take the information construction as one of the infrastructures within the CBD district.



## Market analysis of office buildings in financial district

By Wang Dandan

Up to now, 730,000 sq.m. office buildings have been constructed in Beijing's financial district, the location of the headquarters of the People's Bank of China, Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Construction Bank of China and Citic Bank, according to the resources from Universal X&D Property Consultants.

### Market supply

This area has one of the highest concentrations of office buildings in Beijing. But the older ones are of a low standard and there is a lack of top-level office buildings. Among all the enterprises checked in in the area, only 2.9% belongs to those who operate relevant daily facilities business such as post offices, airline offices or clubs. Also, according to the international standard for the top-level buildings, time spent waiting for the elevator should be no more than 20 seconds, but none of the office buildings here can reach the requirement. It is a general condition that all the elevators in this area are too small and slow. The property management standard is also far below the international standard, as few

are run by top management companies.

### Market demand

Most of the clients in the area are banks or government financial organizations. State-owned enterprises are the main consumers of large office buildings. However, there is a lack of prominent international groups in the area, most are well-known domestic companies.

### Market price analysis

Most buildings charge 20-24USD/m/sqm for rent. Selling prices range from 1980 USD to 2400 USD. As for the property management fees, some of the buildings include it in the rental price.

### Market prospects

The construction of the core financial area will begin soon, and is expected to reach over 1 million sqm. There will be an increased demand for top-level office buildings, the majority of the clients come from the traditional industries, such as banking, telecom etc. The construction of China Telecom Building and China Mobile Building will also radically change the present market structure.

## Rational planning of Beijing's CBD

By Wang Dandan

Planning covers all primary aspects. While the superficial aspects might be apparent, specifics such as infrastructure, traffic, Internet as well as city sightseeing programs are not so obvious.

The government has invited 8 overseas construction groups to put in tenders for the project and has awarded first, second and third prizes respectively. But this does not mean that only the winning plan will be adopted. Actually the government has combined ideas from the winning submission with those put forward by local experts and suggestions from relevant institutions to establish the general plan for the district.

### Economy feasibility

There is little room for romance in the planning of such a project. The plan submitted by one company called for much of the district to be turned into a garden, while others required an enormous hole to be dug for an artificial lake. Such proposals are too expensive and impractical. The district should include green areas, around 15%, but not everywhere; after all, it is a CBD, not a park.

### Traffic management sets a new world standard

The traffic management proposals go beyond those established in other countries. This part of the project is being undertaken by Hong Kong's MV Group. The road structure and the density reach as high as 40%, with most of the roads built along the building groups. In conjunction with a carefully planned subway system, the district will have a convenient and efficient traffic system.

### District diversity

The district not only consists of office buildings and apartments, but also top-level theatres and other entertainment complexes, combining a cultural atmosphere with a commercial one to create a prosperous and pleasant environment.



Pictures by Liu Yang

Guest **Target: Continental Grand Hotel**  
Quiz **When: 11:30-12:50, Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan**

James Hawkin, America

The hotel staff are very friendly and I do not have any problems with communication at all. Even housekeeping staff can speak a little English. I know in other hotels, only staff in the front desk have a very good grasp of English. I do not like the food served in the restaurant, as it is too light. Probably the hotel has run out of the salt!

Maya Stonichva, Yugoslavia

I cannot understand why people here can't understand what I say. I have a little accent, as other people from Eu-

ropean countries. But I do not want to be imitated. On leaving the front desk for my check-in, I heard staff behind the desk mimicked my pronunciation: “Restaurant”, you know we cannot pronounce it very well. It is really a strange hotel.

Annita Hornsten, Sweden

It is all right for everything except that the bedding is a little worn. Though very clean, it needs to be renewed, or just replaced with new sheets. The room is not large compared with other hotels of the same standard, maybe because it was built several years ago.

**A** During the 2001 Beijing Office Building Conference, Deng Zhiren, President of Universal X&D Property Consultants, gave a speech on office buildings in Beijing and participated in a Q&A session, an edited text of which is printed below.

Q: Would you characterize the differences between top-level and second level office buildings?

A: There are three aspects that differentiate the two levels: capacity, facilities and property management fees. Top-level office buildings are usually constructed with a capacity of 20,000 to 30,000 sqm, up to a maximum of 70,000 or 80,000 sqm. Top-level office buildings generally have central air-conditioning systems, while second-level do not. And top-level office buildings usually charge comparatively high property management fees, while a second level buildings charge standard rates. Q: Are there any representative second level office buildings in Beijing?

A: There is not one standard second level office building in Beijing as such. If there is any, they are most likely top-level buildings that cannot meet the modern de-

mands. Their original purpose may have been as top-level buildings, but as time passes, their design can no longer meet the requirements, so they have been downgraded to second level office buildings. It is just as a five-star hotel, after operating for more than 10 years might be downgraded to four-stars. However there are no developers here in Beijing who originally planned to construct a second level office building.

Q: Beijing is a special city. Many mid-level or small-level companies and returned Chinese establish their businesses here, so there is an obvious opportunity for the SOHOs and such like. More and more companies register in the apartment buildings. Will such apartments / office buildings be allowed by the government?

A: Beijing is not a special city. The world is all the same everywhere. There used to be such apartment / office buildings in Hong Kong, due to the lack of office space. It is certain that such mixed purpose buildings will be forbidden in the future. This is simply following international practice. Besides, you cannot use a home telephone line for business, this is strictly prohibited in China.



Recently, President S. R. Nathan(second from right) of Singapore and Mrs. Nathan, accompanied by Ambassador Chin Siat Yoon attended a dinner hosted by the Embassy of Singapore at Shangri-La Hotel Beijing. Mr. Kieran Twomey (left), General Manager of the hotel, welcomed and escorted them to the function upon their arrival.

## Renting in the south Fourth Ring Road

By Wang Dandan

Today, we look at apartment prices around the south Fourth Ring Road, from the Yuquanying in the west to the Xiaohongmen in the east.

### Kefengqiao to Siheqiao

Prices around here range from about 700 yuan for a simply decorated, fully furnished one-room apartment to 1,000 yuan for a two room and 1,300 yuan for a three room apartment. More elaborately decorated apartments might cost between 800 and 1,000 yuan for one room, and up to 1,300 yuan for two rooms.

There are not so many facilities nearby, few good restaurant and not much in the way of entertainment.

### Siheqiao to Majialou Qiao

A simply decorated, fully furnished one room apartment costs around 600 yuan, two room, 900 yuan and three room 1,200 to 1,400 yuan. Better quality apartments cost 800 yuan (one room) and 1,000 yuan (two rooms). There are many flower shops around here, which will be handy on Valentine's Day!

### Majialou Qiao to Gongyidong Qiao

The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 700 yuan, two room 850 yuan and three room 1,200 yuan. There are some factories nearby and the air quality may not that good.

### Gongyidong Qiao to Dahongmen Qiao

A one room apartment costs around 800 yuan, two room 1,000 yuan and three room 1,300 yuan. Dahongmen Railway Station is nearby, the living facilities are OK, but don't expect anything in the way of great luxury.

### Dahongmen Qiao to Liuxiang Qiao

The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 900 yuan, two room 1,200 yuan and three room 1,400 yuan. Close to Shiliuzhuang Park, a good place to do morning exercises and take evening walks.

### Liuxiang Qiao to Xiaohongmen Qiao

A one room apartment costs around 800 yuan, two room 1,000 yuan and three room 1,300 yuan. Near Xiaohongmen Hospital and Hongfu Supermarket; perhaps the best choice along the south Fourth Ring Road.

**“HOUSING” welcomes your feedback:** What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?  
Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com  
Tel: 65902522  
Fax: 65902525



## Sports &amp; Activities



## 2nd Beijing World Dog Show

Judges come from America, Holland, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

If you have any questions, please contact Hou Yanan and Yao Ying on 62020011-2236 or 62048732. fax: 62048732.

## Fitness Week at Nirvana Fitness Center (青岛健身中心)

Work out on world-class fitness gear.

**Open:** Daily, 6am-midnight.

**Where:** West building of Zhaolong Hotel (), Gongtibeilu, Chaoyang District, bus 115 to Nongzhanguan.

**Tel:** 65972299 ext. 2118, 2119, or call Tony on 13001182687

## Chinese Culture Club

You are invited to attend shadow-boxing class from Oct 7-Nov. 25, beginner and intermediate class with English narration. There will be altogether 8 classes. Where: Backyard of Bamboo Garden hotel, Jiugulou Dajie (旧鼓楼大街)

**When:** Oct 7-Nov.25, every Sunday 10am-11:30am

**Fee:** 60-80 yuan each class  
**Tel:** 84622081/13501035145

**Email:** chinese\_cultureclub@hotmail.com

## Vics-Midweek Drink Specials

15 yuan for mixed drinks, 10 yuan for draft drink. There is dancefloor, dj's and free pool.

**Time:** Sun-Thur. **Add:** inside North Gate Workers Stadium, Chaoyang District. **Admission:** 20 yuan. **Tel:** 65936251, 13901022644.



## Next Week

## 2001 4th Beijing Music Festival

**When:** October 15-November 8.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Poly Theater, Beijing Concert Hall, China World Hotel.

**Booking & Information Hotline:** 65071890.



## The 1st Chinese Acrobats Art Festival (Oct 17-26)

Chinese acrobatics have developed greatly in the last 20 years and are characterized by innovation, degrees of difficulty, uniqueness and beauty

Starting October 17, 2001, the festival will run for one week. Featuring troupes from Hebei, Guangzhou, Shenyang, etc. Performances will be staged at Tianqiao Theatre, China Theatre, Capital Theatre, China Pingju Theatre (中国评剧院) and Chaoyang Stadium. The closing ceremony and award party will be held at Worker's Stadium on October 26, 2001.

## Program:

**Beijing Exhibition Hall Theatre:** China's Spirit 9 (by China Acrobatic Troupe)

**Time:** 7:30pm, Oct. 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23.

**Price:** 500, 400, 300, 200, 160, 120, 80 yuan.

**Capital Theatre:** Magic Light (by Hebei Acrobatic Troupe)

**Time:** 7:30pm, Oct 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

**Price:** 380, 280, 180, 120, 80, 50 yuan.

**Tianqiao Theatre:** Beautiful Night (Guangzhou Military Region Acrobatic Troupe)

**Time:** 7:30pm, Oct 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

**Price:** 500, 400, 300, 200, 160, 120, 80 yuan.

**China Theatre:** On the Other Side of the Moon (Shenyang Military Region Qianjin Acrobatic Troupe)

**Time:** 7:30pm, Oct 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.

**Price:** 380, 280, 180, 120, 80, 50 yuan.

**Chaoyang Stadium:** Circus & Acrobats (Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe, Chengdu Military Region Flag Acrobatic Troupe, Qiqihar Acrobatic Circus)

**Time:** 7:30pm, Oct 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

**Price:** 480, 380, 180, 120, 80, 50 yuan.

**China Pingju Theatre Acrobat Show** (Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe, Dalian Acrobatic Troupe, Shanghai Circus School)

**Time:** 7:30pm, Oct 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.

**Price:** 380, 280, 180, 120, 80, 50 yuan.

**Tickets available from:** Beijing Artista Culture Development Company

**Add:** B622, Chang'an Building, Guanghualu, Chaoyang District.

**Tel:** 65102173.

**Beijing Mengqi Advertising Co. Ltd**

**Add:** Room 321, Railway Hotel, 9 Yong'anli, Jianguomenwai, Chaoyang District.

**Tel:** 65670850.

**Beijing Orchid Thai Restaurant**

**Add:** 5, Guanghuaxili, Chaoyang District.

**Tel:** 65952485.



## Music

## The Imperial Garden Concert Series in Beijing

Yaara Tal & Andreas Groethuysen, piano duet. One of world's foremost performers of piano duets will perform Czerny's Grande Sonate in F Minor Op. 178; Schubert's Fantasia in F Minor D. 940; Biet's Jeux d' Enfants Op. 22. Richard Wagner's Tannhauser-Overture.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, **When:** Monday, October 7, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 50-180 yuan, 400 box. **Tel:** 66057006.



## Musical Recital - Voices Influencing the World

Recital of Classic Lectures by Theatrical Artists, starring Sun Daolin, Qiao Zhen, Hu Yajie. Pieces include: Martin Luther King, "I have a dream" and others.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** October 1-6, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-280 yuan, 500 yuan box. **Tel:** 65598285.



## Beijing Forbidden City International Jazz Festival (紫禁城国际爵士节)

Participating musicians include jazz big-band Dieter Glawischnig, a famous French

## Restaurants &amp; Bars

**Pastels Bistro Coffee Shop**  
Lunch & dinner Seafood Steak Buffet, 68yuan/pax+15%

**Where:** No. 22 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District, 1st floor of SciTech Club.

**Tel:** 65123388 ext. 2227 / 2223 / 32708



**Pastels Bistro Coffee Shop**  
Lunch & Dinner Seafood Steak Buffet, 68yuan / pax+15%SC

**Where:** No. 22 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District, 1st floor of SciTech Club.

**Tel:** 65123388 ext. 2227 / 2223 / 32708

## New Astor Grill Restaurant

This is a special steakhouse, and prices are relatively high due to its high standard service and delicious food.

**Add:** 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie, in the St. Regis Hotel.

**Tel:** 64606688.

## Bella's beside Kylin Plaza

An elegant bakery that can offer you various bread for daily consumption and satisfy a craving for good food.

**Add:** Gontibeilu, inside the west side of Kylin Plaza, Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 8am-9:30pm.

**Tel:** 64168929.

We are glad to receive your feedback. If you need any help in your life, you can email us at [bjtodayinfo@ynet.com](mailto:bjtodayinfo@ynet.com) or call 65902522

By Priscilla / Lydie

drummer, Algerian band Rachid Taha, some new performers from Montreux, bands Badmarsh and Shri, Pianist Giorgio Gaslini and American Saxophonist Joshua Redman.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** October 9-14. **Tel:** 65598285.



## The Blue Danube-World Famous Songs Classics Symphonic Music

Performed by China Song & Dance Symphony Orchestra

**Where:** National Library Concert Hall, **When:** October 6, 7:15pm. **Admission:** 30-200 yuan. **Tel:** 68485462.



## Nightingale - World Famous Songs Children's Chorus

By CNSO Children's Chorus. **Conductor:** Yang Hongnian.

**Where:** Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuaajie, Liubukou, West Chang'an Avenue, Xicheng District. **When:** Saturday, October 6, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-280 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

## Teens Rock Night

Ten plus pioneer Chinese rock bands; Red Crystal, Red Flag, CMCB, Meat Tree and more.

**Where:** Get Lucky Bar, Taiyangonglu, east of south gate of Jingmaodaxue, near Taiyang Market.

**When:** October 6, 9pm.

**Admission:** 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students.

**Tel:** 64299109.

## Exhibitions

## 100-year of Chinese Painting

551 pieces of works by 542 painters from 1901 to 2000. Includes work by masters such as Wu Changshuo, Qi Bishi, Xu Beihong and Zhang Daqian.

**Where:** National Museum of Fine Arts, 1 Wusidajie, Dongcheng District, bus 104, 103 or 108 to Meishuguan.

**When:** till October 21, 9am-4:30pm.

**Tel:** 64016234.

## Japanese Elite Artworks Exhibition

The tens of exhibited artworks are selected from the few thousand in the museum's permanent collection. Japanese paintings and arts and crafts, including pottery, teeth sculpture and metal art from the 17th to the beginning of 20th century.

**Where:** Beijing Art Museum (北京艺术博物馆), Wanshou Temple, Suzhoujie, Xisanhuanbeilu (on Third Ring Road, opposite Shangri-la Hotel), bus 334, 347 360 to Sanhuaqiao.

**When:** till October 10.

**Admission:** 10 yuan.

**Tel:** 68715071.

## Still Painting - Chen Danqing &amp; Wang Xingwei

Oil paintings on canvas.

**Where:** 1F, China Art Arhieves

## Performances

## Korean National Dance Troupe

Founded in 1962, the troupe boasts more than 60 skillful dancers. It has given over 500 performances in more than 50 countries.

**Where:** Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiweilu, Xuanwu District.

**When:** October 9-10, 7:30pm.

**Admission:** 20-180 yuan.

**Tel:** 63030300.



## Performance by Brunei Art Troupe

They will give us a comprehensive party of songs and dances.

**Where:** Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiweilu, Xuanwu District, bus 110, 102, 105, 17 to Tianqiao (天桥).

**When:** October 11-12, 7:30pm.

**Admission:** 20-180 yuan.

**Tel:** 63030300.



## World Famous Light Music &amp; Latin American Song and Dance

**Where:** Minority Nationalities Cultural Palace Theater (民族宫大剧院), 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District.

**When:** October 6, 7:30pm.

**Admission:** 80-380 yuan.

**Tel:** 66022530.

& Warehouse, east side of Tiedao Bridge, Caochangdicun, Chaoyang District.

**When:** till October 28, Tuesday-Sunday, 1pm-6pm.

**Tel:** 64655152, 13001277550.



## China International Watch &amp; Jewelry Exposition

**Where:** China International Exhibition Center (国展), 6 Beisanhuan Donglu, beside Carrefour Supermarket, Chaoyang District.

**When:** October 10-13.

**Tel:** 84601800.



## Movie

## Chinese Movie: I Love Beijing (夏日暖洋洋)

**Director:** Ning Ying, starring Yu Ailei. 2000, 97 minutes. The film aims to portray the lives of Beijing's "Lao bai xing", before the city is completely modernized.

**Where:** Cherry Lane movies, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, Intl. Conference Hall, 40 Liangmaqiaolu (1km east of Kempinski Hotel).

**When:** Friday, October 12, 8pm.

**Admission:** 50 yuan.

**Tel:** 64615318.





Photos by Thomas Kloubert

# Tomb of a Grand Eunuch



Detail of main entrance to tomb

By Thomas Kloubert

We all know the one about painless castration - smash testicles between two bricks but remember to keep thumbs clear. We also know that the result of this exercise will either be a corpse or a eunuch. In ancient China, eunuchs (Huanguan or Tajian) wielded considerable influence and power in all aspects of government, particularly during the Ming dynasty (1368 - 1644). Many males in imperial China castrated themselves in the hope of being accepted to a palace position. Those that undertook such desperate measures had grander ambitions than mere servitude, for once a person gained entrance to the palace, he had his foot in the door to the political sphere. Their status is reflected in the elaborate tombs that once dotted the countryside around Shijingshan and Badachu, of which one, perhaps the best preserved example, is now open to visitors. At 81 Moshikou road, just a short walk from the Fahai Temple is the Beijing Eunuch Culture Museum, which is actually the tomb of Tianyi (田义), Official of the Fourth Rank, Recipient of the Dragon Robe and Jade Belt, Keeper of the Royal Seal for Vinegar, Spirits, and Grain, Holder of the Shangfang Sword and Grand Eunuch to three Ming emperors.

For a long time an area at the foot of Shijingshan was known as the eunuch cemetery. Some parts go back to its original allotment for this purpose by the Ming Emperor Yongle after he moved the capital to Beijing in 1421. Observing these thousands of eunuch tombs, Qing Dynasty Emperor Qianlong (1736 - 1796) remarked that it is little wonder that the Ming

Dynasty crumbled. Fertile in death as they could not be in life, these grave mounds gradually made way for farmland after the founding of the Republic in 1911. However a few survived, more or less intact, and have been labeled historical sites by the Beijing Administrative Bureau Of Cultural Relics. Inside the museum, remnants of stone animals that once guarded the approach to some high ranking eunuch's final resting place have been put on display along with tombstones collected from the surrounding area.

The Chinese justification for the eunuch system were the four 'eunuch stars' located to the west of the 'Emperor's constellation'. They were believed to be a sign that eunuchs attended the Emperor in heaven. The first historical records of eunuchs in both the East and West are from the eighth century BC. In an excavation of a Yin dynasty site (1,300 BC), a bone was found with the symbols for 'penis' and 'cut off' carved onto it. The system of 'Huan Guan' matured during the Qin (255 - 206 BC) and Han (206 BC - 220 AD) dynasties, but did not reach its peak until the Ming Dynasty. Never before had eunuchs wielded such complete and absolute power in economic, military and political matters as during the reigns of the Ming emperors. For those with ambitions but little chance of success in the Imperial Examinations, castration was an alternative route that led, via the inner sanctum of the Forbidden City, to high office. Demand for professional removers of genitalia rose, perhaps in indirect proportion to barbers, who would perform the operation for the destitute clientele on credit. The victim, as in the case of the Grand Eunuch Tianyi, was often a prepubescent boy. He would have his lower abdomen and thighs bound with white cloth and his genitalia washed in warm pepper water before being placed in a semi-reclining position and neutered. It was considered vital that immediately after dressing

the wound with cold wet paper, the victim be forced to walk for a few hours. The removed organs would then be fried in oil, preserved in salt, tagged and kept as security by the enterprising castrator. It was a very lucrative business, particularly when successful eunuchs came to reclaim their genitals, as it was unthinkable to be buried mutilated.

Tianyi was one such successful eunuch. It is recorded that he held a 'position of some importance' at the court of the Emperor Jiaqing (1521-1566), when he was only eight years old. He served Emperor Lungching (1566-1672) with distinction and later became a great favorite of Emperor Wanli (1572 -1619). He was awarded the rare privilege of being permitted to remain mounted in areas within the Forbidden City and presented with the Shangfang Sword, a blade he bore with impunity when dealing out justice. Tianyi fell ill and died at the age of 72. Upon hearing the news, the emperor absented himself from all affairs of state and mourned for three days. He personally oversaw the construction of the eunuch's tomb, which was completed less than a month later in a style more usually associated with officials of the first rank. It features its own spirit way, with a pair of cloud columns (Huabiao) and statues representing officials of both martial and civil rank. These two statues appear better preserved than those that can be seen at the Ming Tombs.

Further inside, three imperial steles commissioned by the Emperor Wanli stand in individual brick pavilions and recount the life and deeds of the eunuch Tianyi. Of a larger building constructed almost totally of white marble, only the foundation remains. There are actually five tombs within Tianyi's private cemetery; his is the one in the middle. Fronted by a marble incense burner and an offering table; his tombstone is an unusual square based, rather phallic monolith, decorated with 48 dragons. The intricately carved platters of fruit atop the table contain persimmons, peaches and oranges, representing career, long life and fortune respectively, while a plate of pomegranates on the offering table of the tomb immediately to the left of that of Tianyi symbolizes many sons. Eunuchs often eventually married, or rather bought wives and adopted children to care for them in their old age. This was a more comfortable alternative to spending the evening of their life at one of the many temples built on eunuch subscriptions.

Very little is known about the other four tombs, except that the outer two belong to Ming and the two inner ones to Qing dynasty eunuchs. Apart from the one on the far left, which has a pattern of auspicious instruments, the marble slabs that surround the burial mounds depict scenes from the 'Eight Immortals'. The underground chamber of Tianyi's tomb, like that of his master, Wanli, has been made accessible and is, though empty, quite interesting. All five tombs within the walled compound have been looted by grave robbers over the years, until not even the pickled member of the eunuch remained. One of the tombs was even put to use as a cabbage cellar by a resourceful old lady from the local village, before it became part of the museum.

At the end of the Ming Dynasty self-castration had to be temporarily prohibited as a result of an alarmingly high number of unemployed eunuchs roaming the streets. This in turn probably resulted, even more alarmingly, in a great many redundant professional castrators, lurking in dark corners or joining bands of brigands in the hills. With the fall of the Ming Dynasty, the number of eunuchs came down drastically. By the end of the Qing Dynasty, there were less than 500. The Chinese eunuch system, having endured two thousand years and twenty-five dynasties, died at the end of the republican revolution of 1912. The last palace eunuch, whose picture hangs in the small museum adjoining the tomb, died in 1996.

**Where:** 81, Moshikou (模式口), Shijingshan (石景山) District  
**How to get there:** bus 336 to Moshikou, or bus 337 to Shijingshan; next to Fahai Temple (法海寺)  
**Admittance:** 20 yuan



Incense burner and offering table



View of the tombs

## Double Festival Tour

By Jiang Zhong

If you are at a loss as to how to spend the last few days of the double-festival holiday, a trip to the beautiful city of Weihai (威海) in Shandong Province is certainly worth considering. Weihai lies at the eastern end of the Shandong Peninsula and has the distinction of being known as one of the cleanest cities in China.

Weihai features numerous scenic spots, including Liugongdao (Liugong Island 刘公岛), Qidingshan (Qiding Mountain 旗顶山) and Chengshanjiao (Chengshan Cape 成山角) as well as some great beaches.

### Liugongdao

Liugongdao is 4 kilometers from Weihai. 4 kilometers long and 1.5 kilometers wide, it resembles a warship from a distance. Liugongdao used to be one of the most important bases of Beiyang Navy (北洋海军) during the Qing Dynasty, and there are many historical relics preserved on the island. You can find military buildings, a warship manufacturing plant and fortifications with enormous canons. The Jiawu War (甲午战争) Museum is also located on the island.

### Qidingshan

Qidingshan rises 153 meters above sea level. Tourists can gain a panoramic view of Weihai City from the top of the mountain.

### Huancuilou (Huancui Pavilion 环翠楼)

Built in 1489, Huancuilou got its name from the dense woods surrounding it. It is a perfect place for viewing the sunrise and sunset and bird watching.

### The International Sea Bathing Beach

The sea bathing beach is located in the north-western suburbs of Weihai. It features 2 kilometers of coastline, clear blue seawater and a clean beach. Well-developed entertainment facilities are available.

### Chengshanjiao

Chengshanjiao is known as China's Cape of Good Hope. The sea becomes fierce here, it roars and beats against the rocks violently. Chengshanjiao is regarded as the most beautiful coastal resort in Shandong Peninsula.

Two-day itinerary for Weihai and Chengshanjiao

Day one, spend the morning at Liugongdao; go to the International Sea Bathing Spot in the afternoon; view the sunset from Huancuilou and in the evening, go shopping at the Korean Garment City.

Day two, visit Chengshanjiao

A bus from the long-distance bus station in Weihai takes you to Chengshanjiao in Rongcheng County (荣城县) in one and a half hours. You can spend three hours there and then return to Weihai.

**Admittance:** 48 yuan per person

### Tips:

■ It's a must to ascend to the top of Qidingshan at Liugongdao for a wonderful view of Weihai and the Yellow Sea.

■ Have lunch on the beach at Liugongdao. The gentle breeze and the beautiful scenery together with the delicious seafood will surely increase your appetite.

### Admittance:

Liugongdao: 36 yuan, including ferry ticket

Qidingshan: 8 yuan

Huancuilou: 1 yuan

Chengshanjiao: 48 yuan

### Transportation:

Boat trip to Liugongdao from Weihai takes 20 minutes; mini bus to Chengshanjiao from Weihai takes one and a half hours.

### How to get there:

Train 2547 at 2:51pm from Beijing Railway Station to Yantai (烟台), the trip takes eight hours and costs 67 yuan, then bus to Weihai; (one and a half hours, 15 yuan).



If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.

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